

Health Supports for Children in Care and Youth Agreements



A Guide for Social Workers, Foster Caregivers
and Health Care Professionals

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Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Health Supports for Children in Care – Contents

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INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is responsible for ensuring that children and youth in care and youth receiving support through a Youth Agreement have access to necessary health supports and services.

This handbook provides information for guardianship and resource workers, foster caregivers and health care professionals to assist them in meeting the health and developmental needs of children and youth in care and youth receiving support through a Youth Agreement. Please note that the term 'children in care' refers to children and youth in the care of MCFD, Community Living British Columbia (CLBC), or Delegated Aboriginal Agencies.

MEDICAL COVERAGE

Medical Services Plan

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements are eligible for premium-free Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage. The child or youth's worker activates MSP coverage by applying for basic medical coverage on the Ministry Information System (MIS).*

MSP pays for medically required services including:

- services of physicians
- diagnostic services
- surgical podiatry services
- dental and oral surgery when required to be performed in hospital
- orthodontic services related to severe congenital facial abnormalities

Supplementary health care benefits include:

- up to a combined annual total of 10 visits for chiropractic, massage therapy, naturopathy, physiotherapy and non-surgical podiatry services. MSP contributes \$23 for each visit.
- eye examinations

MSP premium-free coverage is provided for six months after a child or youth is discharged from care.

When a child or youth in care is residing in another province, MSP coverage can remain in effect for up to twelve months if the child or youth's worker notifies Health Insurance BC.

For more information on MSP coverage, please visit: www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/msp/ or contact Health Insurance BC at:

Lower Mainland: (604) 683-7151
Toll-Free: 1-800-663-7100

* The child or youth's worker can choose not to activate MSP coverage. This is appropriate for children or youth brought into care by agreement, if they can continue to be covered by their parents' MSP coverage. Because MSP and PharmaCare coverage are linked, this option should only be selected if the parents have extended health coverage for prescription medications and/or are willing to cover the costs of prescriptions.

Prescription Medications

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements are eligible for approved prescription medications free of charge through PharmaCare. The child or youth's worker activates PharmaCare coverage by applying for basic medical coverage on the Ministry Information System (MIS). A child or youth must be enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP) in order to receive this PharmaCare coverage.

Benefits are obtained by providing the child or youth's personal health number or Care Card to the pharmacist.

Some medications are not covered by PharmaCare. A physician may make a request for a special approval by submitting a Special Authority Request to PharmaCare. For more information, please visit: www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme/sa/saindex.html

Medical supplies that are not covered by PharmaCare may be available through the Medical Benefits Program. For more information, please see **Medical Supplies – page 12**.

Please note that PharmaCare benefits do not remain in effect when a child or youth's file is closed or he/she is residing in another province.

For more information on PharmaCare coverage, please visit:
www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme/ or contact Health Insurance BC at
Lower Mainland: (604) 683-7151
Toll-Free: 1-800-663-7100

Replacement Care Cards

The child or youth's worker can obtain a replacement Care Card by submitting a request to HLTH.MSPDes@hbc.gov.bc.ca. Please include the child or youth's name, CS or FS file number, personal health number, and address to which the replacement card should be mailed.

Medical Transportation

Ambulance Service

Emergency ambulance service is available at no charge to children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements. If the child or youth's worker or foster caregiver receives a bill for ambulance services, please forward the bill, along with the child or youth's Personal Health Number, to the Ambulance Billing Department of the Ministry of Health (please see **Contact Information – page 30**).

For more information on ambulance services, please contact:

Victoria: (250) 952-1921

Toll-Free: 1-800-665-7199

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Funding for non-emergency transportation to therapy, medical or clinic appointments is not provided centrally through the Medical Benefits Program, but may be available through MCFD community offices.

DENTAL AND ORTHODONTIC BENEFITS

Dental Benefits

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements are eligible for basic and major restorative dental coverage to a maximum of \$700 per year. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) provides funding for dental treatment through a contract with Pacific Blue Cross (PBC).

The child or youth's worker is responsible for:

- activating dental coverage on the Ministry Information System (MIS);
- maintaining up to date information on MIS, and;
- providing one dental card to the foster caregiver or youth and placing the other card on the child or youth's file.

If a child or youth is placed in care by agreement, his/her worker only activates dental coverage if it is not available through the parents' dental plan.

Children and youth eligible for dental coverage are within the following groups:

1. All children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements, who are not status Aboriginal peoples.

Dental coverage is provided through MCFD/PBC to a maximum of \$700 per year.

The dentist is responsible for:

- confirming the child or youth's dental coverage with PBC at **1-888-419-2236**;
- confirming with PBC that sufficient funds are available within the child or youth's annual dental funding limit, and;
- submitting claims for treatment directly to PBC using the child or youth's identification and group numbers.

There is a process in place to review extraordinary or over-limit funding requests.

If a child or youth in care or youth in a Youth Agreement requires dental treatment that exceeds the annual funding limit, the dentist should send a written request that includes a treatment plan, x-rays and justification to the attention of the Medical Benefits Program – Dental/Optical Benefits (please see **Contact Information – page 30**).

2. All status Aboriginal children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements (except Nisga'a children and youth – please see **Dental and Orthodontic Benefits for Nisga'a Children and Youth in Care and Youth Agreements - page 11**).

Dental coverage is provided through MCFD/PBC to a maximum of \$100 per year, with additional coverage of \$600 maximum per year provided by Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

The dentist is responsible for:

- confirming the child or youth's dental coverage with PBC at **1-888-419-2236**;
- confirming with PBC that sufficient funds are available within the child or youth's annual dental funding limit, and;
- submitting claims for up to \$100 in annual funding directly to PBC using the child or youth's identification and group numbers. All additional dental claims should be submitted to Health Canada using the child or youth's status number (please see **Contact Information – page 30**).

For more information on dental benefits, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at **1-877-210-3332** or refer to *Dental Benefits for Children in Care and Youth Agreements*, available at http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/cic_dental_guide.pdf

Orthodontic Benefits

Children and youth who are in the permanent or continuing custody of the Director may be eligible for orthodontic coverage. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) provides funding for orthodontic treatment through a contract with Pacific Blue Cross (PBC).

Orthodontic coverage is activated when the child or youth's worker activates dental coverage on the Ministry Information System (MIS) (please see **Dental Benefits – page 8**).

Children and youth eligible for MCFD orthodontic coverage are within the following groups:

1. All children and youth in permanent care/continuing custody, who are not status Aboriginal peoples

Orthodontic coverage is provided through MCFD/PBC to a lifetime maximum of \$5000.

The orthodontist is responsible for:

- confirming the child or youth's eligibility for an initial exam and diagnostic records by contacting PBC at **1-888-419-2236**;
- submitting the application for orthodontic funding to the Medical Benefits Program (please see **Contact Information – page 30**), and;
- submitting claims for approved treatment directly to PBC using the child or youth's identification and group numbers.

There is a process in place to review extraordinary or over-limit funding requests.

If a child or youth in care or youth in Youth Agreement requires orthodontic treatment that exceeds the funding limit, the orthodontist should send a written request that includes a treatment plan, x-rays and justification to the attention of the Medical Benefits Program – Dental/Optical Benefits (please see **Contact Information – page 30**).

2. Status Aboriginal children and youth in permanent care/continuing custody (except Nisga'a children and youth – please see **Dental and Orthodontic Benefits for Nisga'a Children and Youth in Care and Youth Agreements - page 11)**

Orthodontic coverage is provided through MCFD/PBC to a lifetime maximum of \$500, with additional coverage of \$4500 lifetime maximum provided through Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

The orthodontist is responsible for:

- confirming the child or youth's eligibility for an initial exam and diagnostic records by contacting PBC at **1-888-419-2236**;
- submitting the application for orthodontic funding to the Medical Benefits Program (please see **Contact Information – page 30**), and;
- submitting claims for approved treatment of up to \$500 lifetime maximum directly to PBC using the child or youth's identification and group numbers. All additional orthodontic claims should be submitted to Health Canada using the child or youth's status number.

For more information on orthodontic benefits, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at **1-877-210-3332** or see the *Dental Benefits for Children in Care and Youth Agreements Guide*, available at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/cic_dental_guide.pdf

Replacement Dental Cards

To obtain a replacement dental card, the child or youth's worker submits a request, along with the child or youth's CS file number, to the attention of the Dental Benefits Officer at MCF.MedicalBenefitsProgram@gov.bc.ca

Dental and Orthodontic Benefits for Nisga'a Children and Youth in Care and Youth Agreements

Status Nisga'a children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements receive dental and orthodontic coverage through the Nisga'a Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, coordinated by the Nisga'a Lisims Government.

For more information, please contact the Nisga'a Non-Insured Health Benefits Program at **1-866-633-0888** or visit www.nisgaalisims.ca

OPTICAL BENEFITS

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements are eligible for standard frames and lenses to a maximum of \$300 per year.

The optical supplier is asked to contact the Medical Benefits Program at **1-877-210-3332** for prior approval.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Medical Supplies

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements are eligible for necessary medical supplies including:

- feeding system supplies
- nutritional supplies
- incontinence supplies (for children 3 years of age and over)
- oxygen masks and supplies
- dressings and syringes

Medical supplies can be provided centrally through the Medical Benefits Program, or locally through funding to the foster caregiver.

Prior to requesting medical supplies from the Medical Benefits Program, the child or youth's worker must confirm that funding for medical supplies is not already included in the foster caregiver's contract payments, including one-time only or exceptional ongoing monthly payments.

In order to request medical supplies from the Medical Benefits Program send a letter of justification from a health care professional, indicating how the supplies relate to the child or youth's diagnosis/disability; the quantity of supplies needed; and the length of time they are required for. Please send the letter to:

Medical Benefits Program
PO Box 9763
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9S5

Victoria: (250) 387-9649
Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

Once a request for medical supplies has been approved by the Medical Benefits Program, the foster caregiver places an order by calling the Product Distribution Centre (PDC) at:

Lower Mainland: (604) 927-2285
Toll-Free: 1-877-988-1155

Medical Equipment- General Information

Children and youth in care with special needs are eligible for essential medical equipment for home use. Good quality new or recycled medical equipment is available centrally through the Medical Benefits Program.

Requests for medical equipment must include a letter of justification from the child or youth's therapist, nurse or other health professional. Requests should be sent to the Medical Benefits Program at:

Medical Benefits Program
PO Box 9763
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9S5

Victoria: (250) 387-9649
Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

The request should include:

- a functional assessment that outlines the nature of the child or youth's need and identifies the medical equipment that will address this need, and;
- a quote from an approved medical equipment supplier (a list of approved suppliers is available from the Medical Benefits Program; please call **1-888-613-3232**).

Equipment assessment services are generally available without charge from the child or youth's therapist or nurse. For assistance in locating a publicly funded therapist contact the Medical Benefits Program at **1-888-613-3232**. Please note that the Medical Benefits Program does not pay assessment or consultation fees charged by private practice therapists.

Recycling Medical Equipment

The Canadian Red Cross Society operates the Children's Medical Equipment Recycling and Loan Service [CMERLS] in partnership with MCFD.

Medical equipment purchased through the Medical Benefits Program should be returned to the Red Cross when it is no longer required. It will be repaired, cleaned and recycled for the benefit of other children and youth.

For more information on CMERLS please visit www.redcrossequipment.com or contact **1-866-264-2244**.

Warranty on Medical Equipment

New medical equipment provided by approved dealers has a two year, all-inclusive warranty. The warranty includes:

- six-month maintenance checks
- all repairs due to normal wear and tear (including tire and battery)
- loaner equipment during warranty repairs

Please return medical equipment to the dealer for repairs during the warranty period and contact the Medical Benefits Program before performing non-warranty repair work at:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649

Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

Medical Equipment Repairs and Modifications

Medical equipment must be returned to the original dealer for any necessary repairs during the 2-year warranty period. The Canadian Red Cross repairs medical equipment no longer under dealer warranty.

Prior approval from the Medical Benefits Program is required for equipment repairs and modifications. Please call:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649

Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

Medical Equipment - Alternate Positioning Devices

The Medical Benefits Program provides the following alternate positioning devices for use at home: standing frames, walkers, beanbag chairs, and floor sitters. For more information, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649

Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

School districts are responsible for providing positioning equipment for use at school.

Medical Equipment - Bathing and Toileting Aids

The Medical Benefits Program provides basic equipment for bathing and toileting including:

- commodes/raised toilet seats
- bath chairs/bath benches
- toilet frames
- poles and grab bars

Hydraulic bath lifts may be funded if no other bathing aid is suitable to carry out the child or youth's hygienic care. One bathing or toileting aid will be funded at a time unless existing equipment does not meet the child or youth's needs. For more information, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649

Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

School districts are responsible for providing toileting equipment for use at school.

Funding for home renovations or structural modifications to accommodate new equipment is not provided centrally through the Medical Benefits Program, but may be available through MCFD community offices.

Medical Equipment - Bio-Medical Equipment

The Medical Benefits Program provides specialized medical equipment including:

- ventilators
- bi-pap machines, c-pap machines
- apnea monitors, nebulisers, suction machines
- feeding pumps

Requests for bio-medical equipment must include a letter of justification from a health care professional outlining the nature of the child or youth's condition and need for specialized medical equipment, a description of the equipment, and a quote from an approved dealer. Requests should be sent to the Medical Benefits Program at:

Medical Benefits Program

PO Box 9763

STN PROV GOVT

Victoria, BC

V8W 9S5

Victoria: (250) 387-9649

Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

Please note that the Medical Benefits Program does not replace functioning equipment unless the child or youth's medical condition necessitates an upgrade. Please submit a letter of justification from a health care professional to support the request for an upgrade.

Medical Equipment - Hearing Aids/Audiology Equipment

Children in care who are under three and a half years of age and have a permanent hearing loss receive their first set of hearing aids and FM equipment through the BC Early Hearing Program located at local public health audiology clinics. For more information, including contact information for local audiology clinics, please visit

www.phsa.ca/AgenciesServices/Services/BCEarlyHearingPrgrs/ContactUs.htm

New hearing equipment purchases and repairs/refits of analog and digital hearing aids and personal FM systems for older children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements are available through the Medical Benefits Program.

The following items are also available:

- batteries (to a maximum of 52 per aid per year)
- earmolds/acoustic couplers and swim molds
- dri-aids and air blowers
- battery testers and stethoscopes

Requests must be submitted by a certified audiologist and include a justification and an audiogram taken within six months of the application. The request should also specify the type and quantity of batteries required. Requests should be sent to the Medical Benefits Program at:

Medical Benefits Program
PO Box 9763
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9S5

Victoria: (250) 387-9649

Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

Once approved, batteries are supplied by the Product Distribution Centre (PDC).

Lower Mainland: (604) 927-2285

Toll-Free: 1-800-988-1155

For more information on services and supports for children and youth who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf blind, please see **Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – page 22.**

Medical Equipment - Hospital Beds and Mattresses

The Medical Benefits Program provides hospital beds for home use based on the following criteria:

- manual beds – if the child or youth is dependent but needs position changes or hi/low function for personal care
- semi electric beds – if the child or youth can change positions independently and position changes are needed for medical reasons
- fully electric – if the child or youth needs to transfer from a higher to lower surface and is able to perform an independent transfer

Funding of up to \$3,000 may be provided towards a specialized enclosed bed prescribed by an occupational therapist or physiotherapist.

Bed rails and basic pressure relief mattresses such as foam, air or gel are also available. For more information, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649
Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

Medical Equipment - Lifts

The Medical Benefits Program funds manual floor model or ceiling track lifts (including two slings and two pieces of track) to a maximum of \$4200.

Replacement Guidelines

- Manual floor model – 5 years
- Ceiling track lift – one per child at one time

For more information, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649
Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

Funding for vehicle lifts is not provided centrally through the Medical Benefits Program, but may be available through MCFD community offices.

Medical Equipment - Orthotics and Bracing Devices

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements may be eligible for orthotics and bracing through two programs: PharmaCare and the Medical Benefits Program.

Orthotics must be fitted and manufactured under the direct supervision of a podiatrist or certified orthotist.

Splints must be fitted under the direct supervision of an occupational therapist or physiotherapist.

The following items are provided by the Medical Benefits Program:

- bilateral custom foot orthotics
- foot splints
- night resting splints
- knee ankle foot orthotics
- extra depth shoes
- wrist hand orthotics
- wrist splints
- abduction splints
- bilateral twister cables
- hand orthotics
- arch supports

For more information, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649
Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

For information on orthotics available through PharmaCare please visit
www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme/ or contact Health Insurance BC at

Lower Mainland: (604) 683-7151
Toll-Free: 1-800-663-7100

Medical Equipment - Seating Systems and Pressure Relief Cushions

The Medical Benefits Program provides commercial or custom-made postural control seating systems prescribed for use in a mobility device.

The prescribing therapist is asked to submit a quote for the seating system as part of the request for a mobility device. The quote must be itemized, showing the cost of each component and labour charges separately.

One seating system per child or youth will be funded at a time and seating systems or cushions for backup wheelchairs will not be funded. Power wheelchair users should consider transferable seating.

Replacement Guidelines

- custom and commercial systems – 2 years
- specialized pressure relief cushions – 3 years

For more information, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649

Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

Medical Equipment - Wheelchairs and other Mobility Equipment

The Medical Benefits Program provides:

- one manual wheelchair
- or
- one basic power wheelchair and one basic manual wheelchair or special needs stroller as a backup for the power wheelchair. Please note that ultra light, rigid frame and tilt-in-space wheelchairs do not qualify as backup wheelchairs.

The Medical Benefits Program provides a basic rear wheel drive scooter, if the child or youth is not totally wheelchair dependent and, for medical reasons, is unable to propel a manual wheelchair.

Replacement Guidelines

- manual or power wheelchairs – 5 years
- scooters – 5 years
- strollers – 3 years

For more information, please contact the Medical Benefits Program at:

Victoria: (250) 387-9649

Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232

ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORTS

Infant Development Program

Children in care, aged birth to 3 years, who are at risk for or have a developmental delay may be eligible for Infant Development Program (IDP) supports and services. Please consult with a physician or paediatrician if you have concerns about the development of a child (including children over age 3).

IDP supports and services include screening, assessment, home visits, playgroups and information about other health, social and community services.

For more information, please visit www.idpofbc.ca/findidp.html or contact your local Child Development Centre.

Aboriginal Infant Development Program

Aboriginal children in care, aged birth to 3 years (birth to 6 years in most communities), who are at risk for or have a developmental delay may be eligible for culturally relevant Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) supports and services. Please consult with a physician or paediatrician if you have concerns about the development of a child (including children over age 3).

AIDP supports and services include screening, assessment, home visits, playgroups and information about other health, social and community services.

For more information, please visit www.aidp.bc.ca/community_program_info.html or contact your local Child Development Centre.

Therapy

The Medical Services Plan (MSP) funds up to a combined maximum of 10 visits for chiropractic, massage therapy, naturopathy, physiotherapy and non-surgical podiatry services per calendar year. MSP contributes \$23 for each visit. For more information, please see **Medical Services Plan – page 5**.

Early Intervention Therapy services, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech-language pathology, are available for children between birth and school entry who have or are at risk for a developmental delay or disability. Please contact your local Child Development Centre.

School-Aged Therapy services, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech-language pathology consultation, are available for school-aged children and youth with special needs through local school districts.

If a child or youth in care or youth in Youth Agreement requires intensive direct therapy, for example following surgery, these services should be arranged by the child or youth's worker. Funding may be available through MCFD community offices.

Supported Child Development

Children in care with special needs may be eligible for Supported Child Development (SCD) services to enable their inclusion in child care settings.

SCD services are available to children aged birth to 12 years, with services for youth aged 13-18 years available in some communities.

For more information, please visit www.scdp.bc.ca/SCD%20Program%20Locations.htm%20 or contact your local Child Development Centre or Supported Child Development service provider.

Aboriginal Supported Child Development

Aboriginal children in care with special needs may be eligible for culturally relevant Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) services to enable their inclusion in child care settings.

ASCD services are available to children aged birth to 12 years, with services for youth aged 13-18 years available in some communities.

For more information, please contact your local Child Development Centre or Aboriginal Supported Child Development service provider.

Nursing Support Services

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements with special health needs may be eligible for nursing services including assessment, care planning, consultation and training for caregivers.

For referral or consultation contact the Manager, Nursing Support Services at
(250) 387-5858.

Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf blind may be eligible for supports and services including residential programs, caregiver development, immersion programs and community consultation.

For more information, please visit www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/psdhh/index.htm or contact Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at:

Lower Mainland: (604) 660-1800

Lower Mainland: (604) 660-1807 (TTY)

Complex Developmental Behavioural Conditions Assessment Services

Multidisciplinary assessment services are available for children and youth who may have complex developmental behavioural conditions, such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Complex Developmental Behavioural Conditions (CDBC) Network offers assessment services for children and youth who have significant difficulties in multiple areas of function including development and learning, mental health, and adaptive and social skills.

For more information, including CDBC Network contact information for each region, please visit www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/fasd/assessment.htm.

Key Worker Services for Children and Youth with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Similar Neurological Conditions

Children and youth in care who have, or are suspected of having, FASD or similar neurological conditions may be eligible for key worker services, including:

- emotional and practical support for foster caregivers;
- information about FASD;
- assistance in accessing support, health and education services, and;
- identification of ways of adapting the child or youth's environment in response to his/her needs, in conjunction with the foster caregiver and other service providers.

For more information, please visit www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/fasd/support.htm

Intervention Services for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may be eligible for Autism Funding Programs through the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Services for children and youth with ASD are jointly delivered by MCFD and Community Living BC (CLBC).

The child or youth's guardianship worker contacts the local CLBC Community Living Centre, provides the documents required to establish eligibility and completes the Autism Funding Application (available at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/forms.htm).

The CLBC facilitator confirms eligibility and provides information about autism programs. Once eligibility has been established, the facilitator contacts the Autism Funding Unit by email to confirm the amount of funding available for the child or youth. The child or youth's guardianship worker then selects a service provider* and determines an approach to intervention that is eligible for funding and consistent with the child or youth's plan of care.

In order to initiate service, the guardianship worker submits a Request to Pay form (CF0925) to:

Autism Funding Unit
PO Box 9776
Victoria BC V8W 9S5

Phone: 1-877-777-3530 Fax (250) 356-8578

If the service provider* is an agency (i.e. more than one staff), no additional steps are required. If the service provider* is an individual, and not an agency, an MCFD Client Service Agreement and Component Schedule are required. A CLBC analyst or contract clerk completes the MCFD Client Service Agreement and Component Schedule with information provided by the child or youth's guardianship worker.

The Autism Funding Unit sets up an invoice payment account and pays invoices submitted by the service provider for intervention services. Up to 20% of annual funding can be set aside for travel, training or equipment. Pre-approval is required. Please note that in cases where a child or youth comes into care by agreement, it may be appropriate to have the parent continue to manage the autism funds for their child for up to 30 days.

Autism Community Training (ACT) provides web- and phone-based information and support regarding services and interventions for children and youth with ASD. For more information, please visit www.actcommunity.net or call **1-866-939-5188**.

For assistance in selecting service providers for children in care under 6, please contact MCFD's Senior Behaviour Consultant at **1-877-777-3530**

* The guardianship worker selects a service provider from ACT's Registry of Service Providers (RASP) for children under 6 (this is also recommended for children and youth over 6). The RASP is available at www.actcommunity.net/search/RASPAgency.aspx

Community Living BC Services

Community Living BC (CLBC) delivers support and services to people with developmental disabilities, children and youth with special needs, and their families.

Children and youth in care who have a developmental disability*, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), or have been assessed as eligible for At Home Program services may be eligible for CLBC consultation services.

Youth in care with a developmental disability* may be eligible for CLBC planning support. The youth's worker should contact CLBC before the youth's 17th birthday to arrange for planning services.

*A child or youth must meet all of the following criteria to be considered as having a developmental disability (must be confirmed by a registered psychologist):

- a formal diagnosis of a developmental disability occurring before age 18
- an IQ score or cognitive skills score that is significantly sub-average
- accompanying deficits in adaptive behaviour

For more information, please visit www.communitylivingbc.ca or contact:

Vancouver: (604) 664-0101

Toll-Free: 1-877-660-2522

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Child and Youth Mental Health Services

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements may be eligible for a range of community-based, specialized Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) services. Children and youth and/or their foster caregivers may request CYMH services by contacting the nearest Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) CYMH office.

CYMH teams include psychologists, clinical social workers, nurses, counsellors and psychiatrists who work with the child or youth to plan and deliver responsive, effective treatment and support. Services include individual, group and family therapies and support to assist with emotional and behavioural conditions including:

- mood and anxiety difficulties
- behavioural problems
- emotional dysregulation
- disordered eating
- suicidal and/or self-harm behaviours
- psychotic symptoms
- deterioration in daily functioning
- coexisting conditions (such as mood problems and developmental delays or mood problems and substance misuse)

The type and extent of CYMH services that may be offered depend on the needs of the child or youth. Referral to other services may also be offered.

For more information, including contact information for all CYMH offices, please visit www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/index.htm.

Developmental Disabilities Mental Health Services

Youth in care, aged 14 or older, who have a developmental disability (intellectual impairment) and mental illness or challenging behaviour may be eligible for Developmental Disabilities Mental Health Services, including consultation and assessment. Referrals are accepted from all sources, including youth, foster caregivers, and guardianship workers.

For more information, please contact:

- **Fraser Region**
Fraser Valley: (604) 777-8475
West Coast: (604) 660-0786
- **Interior Region**
East Kootenay: (250) 420-2401
Kootenay Boundary: (250) 365-4301
Okanagan: (250) 862-4367
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap: (250) 314-2772
- **North Region**
(250) 565-7393
- **Vancouver Coastal Region**
Lower Mainland: (604) 874-7626
- **Vancouver Island Region**
Victoria: (250) 479-7005

Eating Disorders Program

The BC Children's Hospital Eating Disorders Program provides interdisciplinary assessment and treatment services for children and youth with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and related eating disorders. The program integrates services with locally-based treatment resources throughout the province.

For more information, please visit

www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ChildYouthMentalHlth/ProgramsAndServices/EatingDisordersProgram/default.htm or contact:

Vancouver: (604) 875-2200

Well-Being Program

Children and youth in care and youth in Youth Agreements who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf blind may be eligible for mental health services through the Well-Being Program. Services include:

- therapy
- support work
- interpreting at therapy sessions
- education and training
- support/discussion groups

For more information, please visit: www.vch.ca/wbp/home.htm
or contact the Well-Being Program at

Lower Mainland: (604) 456-0900

Lower Mainland (TTY): (604) 456-0901

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Please send questions or comments about this guide to mcf.healthsupports@gov.bc.ca or phone (250) 387-2015.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE
Aboriginal Infant Development Program MCFD			www.aidp.bc.ca/community_program_info.html
Aboriginal Supported Child Development MCFD			www.scdp.bc.ca
Ambulance Billing Department, Financial Services Division – Ministry of Health	PO Box 9676 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9P7	Victoria: (250) 952-1921 Toll-Free: 1-800-665-7199	www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/bcas/fees/
Autism Community Training	Suite 240 – 2250 Boundary Road, Burnaby, BC, V5M 3Z3	Toll-Free: 1-866-939-5188	www.actcommunity.net
Autism Funds Processing Unit MCFD	PO Box 0776 Victoria, BC V8W9S5	Toll-Free: 1-877-777-3530	www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/index.htm
BC Early Hearing Program			www.phsa.ca/AgenciesServices/Services/BCEarlyHearingPrgs/ContactUs.htm
Canadian Red Cross Children's Medical Equipment Recycling and Loan Service		Toll-Free: 1-866-264-2244	www.redcrossequipment.com
CDBC Assessment Network			www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/fasd/assessment.htm
Child and Youth Mental Health MCFD	PO Box 9731 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9S1	Victoria: (250) 387-9749	www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/index.htm
Community Living British Columbia	7 th Floor, Airport Square 1200 – West 73 rd Ave Vancouver, BC V6P 6G5	Vancouver: (604) 664-0101 Toll-Free: 1-877-660-2522	www.communitylivingbc.ca

CONTACT	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE
Developmental Disabilities Mental Health Services		Fraser Region Fraser Valley: (604) 777-8475 West Coast: (604) 660-0786 Interior Region East Kootenay: (250) 420-2401 Kootenay Boundary: (250) 365-4301 Okanagan: (250) 862-4367 Thompson Cariboo Shuswap: (250) 314-2772 North Region (250) 565-7393 Vancouver Coastal Region Lower Mainland: (604) 874-7626 Vancouver Island Region Victoria: (250) 479-7005	
Eating Disorders Program – BC Children’s Hospital	Box 156 – 4500 Oak St Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1	Vancouver : (604) 875-2200	www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ChildYouthMentalHlth/ProgramsAndServices/EatingDisordersProgram/default.htm
Health Canada (Non-Insured Health Benefits Program)		Toll-Free: 1-800-317-7878	www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html
Infant Development Program MCFD			www.idpofbc.ca/findidp.html
Medical Benefits Program MCFD	PO Box 9763 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9S5	General Enquiries Victoria: (250) 387-9649 Toll-Free: 1-888-613-3232 Dental/Optical Benefits Toll-Free: 1-877-210-3332	
Medical Services Plan – Ministry of Health	PO Box 9035 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E3	Lower Mainland: (604) 683-7151 Toll-Free: 1-800-663-7100	www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/msp/
Nisga’a Non-Insured Health Benefits Program - Nisga’a Lisims Government	PO Box 231 New Aiyansh, BC V0J 1A0	New Aiyansh: (250) 633-3000 Toll-Free: 1-866-633-0888	www.nisgaalisims.ca/
Nursing Support Services MCFD	PO BOX 9719 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9S5	Victoria: (250) 387-5858	www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/nursing.htm
PharmaCare Program – Ministry of Health	PO Box 9655 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9P2	Lower Mainland: (604) 683-7151 Toll-Free: 1-800-663-7100	www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme/
Pacific Blue Cross Dental/Orthodontic Department	PO Box 7000 Vancouver, BC V6B 4E1	Lower Mainland: (604) 419-2600 Toll-Free: 1-888-419-2236	www.pac.bluecross.ca/



CONTACT	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE
Product Distribution Centre	2370 United Blvd Coquitlam, BC V3K 6A3	Lower Mainland: (604) 927-2285 Toll-Free: 1-800-988-1155	www.bcsolutions.gov.bc.ca/pdc/
Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing MCFD	4334 Victory St Burnaby, BC V5J 1R2	Lower Mainland: (604) 660-1800 TTY: (604) 660-1807	www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/psdhh/index.htm
Supported Child Development MCFD			www.scdp.bc.ca/
Well-Being Program – Vancouver Coastal Health (available throughout BC)	#300-4211 Kingsway Burnaby, BC V5H 1Z6	Lower Mainland: (604) 456-0900 TTY: (604) 456-0901	www.vch.ca/wbp/home.htm