

1. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Supply Act

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy and accompanying standards is to provide clarification regarding the criteria and process used to determine eligibility for the Autism Funding: Under Age 6, and Autism Funding: Ages 6-18 Programs.

3. POLICY

The Ministry of Children and Family Development will provide Autism Programs for eligible children and their families

4. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

4.1 Autism Funding: Under Age 6

Autism Funding: Under Age 6 Program provides families of children with ASD under age 6 with up to \$20,000 per year (\$22,000 as of April, 2010) to assist with the cost of purchasing eligible autism intervention services (based on best practices) that promote their child's communication, social-emotional, pre-academic and functional life skills development.

4.2. Autism Funding: Ages 6 to 18

Autism Funding: Ages 6 to 18 Program provides families of children with ASD ages 6 through 18 (inclusive) with up to \$6,000 per year to assist with the cost of purchasing eligible out-of-school autism intervention services that will promote their child's communication, social-emotional, academic and functional life skills development.

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1 "ASD" means Autism Spectrum Disorder and includes the following diagnoses:

- Autism
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Rett Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder –Not Otherwise Specified
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder

5.2 "Best practice" means interventions and approaches that are supported by evidence and proven to be effective.

5.3 “Eligible children” means:

5.3.1 For the Autism Funding: Under Age 6 Program, children who:

- a) have a diagnosis of ASD that meets the standards of the British Columbia Autism Assessment Network, **or**;
- b) received a diagnosis of ASD from another province in Canada, and have a Confirmation of Diagnosis form completed by a qualified specialist, **and**;
- c) are age 5 or under, **and**;
- d) are a resident of BC

5.3.2 For the Autism Funding: Ages 6 - 18 Program, children who:

- a) have a diagnosis of ASD that meets the standards of the British Columbia Autism Assessment Network, **or**;
- b) received a diagnosis of ASD from another province in Canada, and have a Confirmation of Diagnosis form completed by a qualified specialist, **and**;
- c) are between 6 and 18 years of age (inclusive), **and**;
- d) are a resident of BC

5.4 “Behavioural Plan of Intervention” means an individualized program designed for a specific child or youth that focuses on identifying areas where intervention is needed. It is developed and written by a behaviour consultant in collaboration with the child or youth’s parents, and includes input from professionals who are members of the child’s team (e.g., speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist)

5.5 “Registry of Autism Service Providers” means a list maintained by ACT – Autism Community Training on behalf of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, from which parents of children receiving Autism Funding: Under Age 6 are required to select professional service providers (behaviour consultants, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists). In order to be included on the RASP, professionals must demonstrate that their education and experience meet the qualifications described by the ministry.

5.6 “Qualified specialist” means a paediatrician, child psychiatrist, or registered psychologist.

5.7 “Resident of British” Columbia is defined in accordance with the *Medicare Protection Act* and means a person who:

- (a) is a citizen of Canada or is lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence;
- (b) makes his or her home in British Columbia, and;
- (c) is physically present in British Columbia at least 6 months in a calendar year, and includes a person who is deemed under the regulations to be a resident, but does not include a tourist or visitor to British Columbia.

6. STANDARDS

6.1 Information and Support to Families Standard

1	The organization ensures that each family has access to a knowledgeable Children and Youth with Special Needs Support Worker (CYSN SW)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CYSN SW is knowledgeable about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) intervention. • The potential impact of ASD on a child or youth's family members. • Services and supports available for children and youth with special needs and their families. • Parents' responsibilities under the Autism Programs, including those related to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administration of autism funds; • submittal of a Behavioural Plan of Intervention (for children under age 6), and; • selection of professional service providers from the Registry of Autism Service Providers (for children under age 6). • At the initial meeting with the family, the CYSN SW provides information regarding available services and supports, or arranges for another meeting time to do so. • The CYSN SW is available to provide ongoing information and support to the family.

6.2 Autism Funding: Under Age 6 Program Eligibility Standards

1	The organization uses consistent criteria to determine children's eligibility for the Autism Funding: Under Age 6 Programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Autism Funding: Under Age 6 Program is intended for children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are under age six have a documented multidisciplinary diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), coordinated by a qualified specialist, and; are residents of British Columbia (BC).
2	The organization informs the family of, and receives, the required eligibility documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required eligibility documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Columbia Autism Assessment Network (BCAAN) Clinical Outcomes form or Non-BCAAN (Private) Diagnosis of ASD form completed by a qualified specialist and showing a multidisciplinary diagnosis of ASD. For children diagnosed with ASD in another Canadian province, a Confirmation of Previous Diagnosis of ASD form, completed by a qualified BC specialist and showing a diagnosis of ASD. Proof that the child is under age 6 (such as a birth certificate). Current BC Care Card (as proof of residency).
3	The organization reviews the required eligibility documents to determine program eligibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The documents are reviewed for completeness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-BCAAN (Private) Diagnosis of ASD and Confirmation of Previous Diagnosis of ASD forms must be completed by a qualified specialist. The Non-BCAAN (Private) Diagnosis form must be accompanied by psychological, paediatric, and speech-language pathology assessments. The Confirmation of Previous Diagnosis of ASD form must be accompanied by the child's original assessment and diagnostic report(s). Questions regarding eligibility may be directed to the Senior Behaviour Consultant, Ministry of Children and Family Development.

6.3 Autism Funding: Ages 6-18 Program Eligibility Standards

1	The organization uses consistent criteria to determine children and youths' eligibility for the Autism Funding: Ages 6-18 Program
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Autism Funding: Ages 6-18 Program is intended for children and youth who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are ages six through eighteen; have a documented clinical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), completed by a qualified specialist; are residents of British Columbia (BC), and; are not receiving contracted autism intervention services or government funding for any other autism treatment (with the exception of the Behavioural Support Program and services provided by school districts).
2	The organization informs the family of, and receives, the required eligibility documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required eligibility documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For children and youth diagnosed with ASD in BC prior to April 1, 2004, or at anytime in another Canadian province, a Confirmation of Previous Diagnosis of ASD form, completed by a qualified BC specialist and showing a diagnosis of ASD. For children and youth diagnosed with ASD after April 1, 2004, a BCAAN Clinical Outcomes form or Non-BCAAN (Private) Diagnosis of ASD form, completed by a qualified specialist and showing a diagnosis of ASD. Proof that the child or youth is between the ages of six and eighteen (such as a birth certificate). Current BC Care Card (as proof of residency).
3	The organization reviews the required documents to determine program eligibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The documents are reviewed for completeness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-BCAAN (Private) Diagnosis of ASD and Confirmation of Previous Diagnosis of ASD forms must be completed by a qualified specialist. <p>Questions regarding eligibility may be directed to the Senior Behaviour Consultant, Ministry of Children and Family Development.</p>

6.4 Initiating Access to Autism Programs Standards

1	The organization assists families to complete the documents required to initiate access to Autism Programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A completed Application for Autism Funding, available at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/programs/forms.htm, is required.
2	The organization activates autism funding for eligible children and youth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child or youth is eligible for funding from the first day of the month in which the organization receives all required eligibility documents and the completed Application for Autism Funding (see Autism Program Eligibility Standards, pages 4-5).