

1. POLICY TITLE

Use of Respite Funding

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification regarding the use of respite funding. It applies to the following:

- At Home Program Respite Benefits, and;
- Direct-Funded Respite (available through Family Support Services).

3. POLICY STATEMENT

At Home Program and Direct-Funded respite funding is to be used towards the purchase of respite services that best meet the needs of the eligible child's family. It is not intended to replace the family's natural support network or normative parental responsibilities.

The family is responsible for determining which respite services will best meet its needs, in accordance with the Service Provision by Family Members Policy (for families who are paying a family member to provide respite services) and the ineligible expenses noted below.

At Home Program and/or Direct-Funded respite funding may not be used towards the purchase of any of the following:

- childcare services that are required as a result of the parent/guardian's employment (paid or unpaid), training, or education, and/or;
- services that are provided by any Ministry of Children and Family Development program.

4. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

4.1 At Home Program Respite Benefits

The At Home Program is intended to assist parents with some of the extraordinary costs of caring for a child with severe disabilities at home. It is provided in accordance with the Eligibility for the At Home Program Policy.

The At Home Program provides Medical Benefits and/or Respite Benefits. Children may be eligible for both benefits or for a choice of one benefit. If a child is eligible for a choice of one benefit, the family may switch between benefits up to once per calendar year.

At Home Program Respite Benefits provide \$2,400 - \$2,800 per year (depending on family income) to assist families of eligible children to purchase the respite services that best meet their needs (funding may be enhanced to meet extraordinary need). Families may be waitlisted for At Home Program Respite Benefits.

Eligibility for the At Home Program is reassessed on a regular basis.

4.2 Direct-Funded Respite

Direct-Funded Respite is a component of Family Support Services, provided in accordance with the Eligibility for Family Support Services Policy.

Direct-Funded Respite provides \$2,400 - \$2,800 per year (depending on family income) to assist families of eligible children to purchase the respite services that best meet their needs (funding may be enhanced to meet extraordinary need). Families may be waitlisted for Direct-Funded Respite.