

# Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities

**Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) helps middle to lower income parents of children with severe disabilities that live at home, by assisting with the ongoing, extraordinary costs that are incurred.**

To Apply:  
Contact the nearest ACSD office — in York Region:

**Ministry of Children and Youth Services**  
Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities  
17310 Yonge St., Unit 1, Newmarket, ON L3Y 7R8  
☎ 905 868-8900 or 1-877-669-6658  
☎ 905 715-7759 (TTY/TDD)

## You are eligible if:

- Your child is
  - ~ less than 18 years of age
  - ~ resides in Ontario
  - ~ lives at home with his/her family (legal guardian)
- Your child has a severe mental or physical disability resulting in functional loss which interferes with daily living
- Your family has ongoing, extraordinary costs as a result of your child's disability.

## The Application Process:

- Obtain an application form from the Ministry office, complete it and return it to the Ministry office
- A Ministry staff person will arrange a home interview to verify income and costs
- Medical documentation of the disability may be required

## Annual review

- If you receive benefits, you must participate in an annual review
- Adjustments to your benefit entitlement are effective April 1

## Appeal process

- The first step is to request an Internal Review by the Ministry of Community and Social Services
- If unsuccessful, then you may request a review by the Social Benefits Tribunal

You may call York Support Services Network (YSSN) to request information about the appeal process or assistance during the process.

### **Benefit amount**

The ACDS benefit is between \$25 and \$400 per month, depending on:

- The size of your family, including parents and other dependent children
- Your family's total income in the previous tax year
- The total amount of eligible extraordinary costs arising from your child's disability

### **Considerations related to family income**

- If the parents do not live together, only the income of the parent living with the child will be considered
- If one parent is self-employed and has a business loss, that income will be considered to be zero
- The current year's income may be used in calculating benefit entitlement if it is expected to be lower than last year's income
- If your family has more than one disabled child, you could qualify for a higher benefit for each child (up to \$400/child)

### **Additional benefits**

ACDS also covers

- Transportation, lodging and meals related to school or treatment
- Parental relief/day care and babysitting
- Special diet
- Speech therapy
- Drugs, dental needs, hearing aids, eyeglasses

### **Items that are not allowable**

- Items covered by a drug or dental plan
- Items covered by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Assistive Devices Program
- Modifications to the home
- Vans

### **To receive ACDS while your child is in a medical institution**

- The stay must be intended to be short term
- A treatment plan must be set by the professionals in the facility
- The plan must allow for your child to be home weekends and holidays
- If the length of stay of your child in the facility exceeds six months, a review of your approval may take place

### **To receive ACSD while your child is in an educational institution, such as a school for the blind**

- It is expected your child is home each weekend

### **Exceptional circumstances**

- The severity of your child's disability or exceptionally high costs may lead to regular or longer institutionalization if the ACSD benefit is not provided
- In these cases, the Ministry may relax requirements to receive ACSD

### **Other financial options**

- You may be able to obtain financial help for your child from an insurance plan, such as Blue Cross
- You may be able to obtain financial help for your child from a community resource, such as a service club

*Disclaimer: Although every reasonable effort is made to present current and accurate information, being listed does not indicate that the service is recommended or endorsed by York Support Services Network (YSSN) or the Developmental Services Ontario Central East Region (DSO CER). As this information is created and maintained by a variety of sources both internal and external, we would like to recommend that you contact the organizations directly, as information can change periodically without notice.*

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