

At Home Program Info Sheet

The [At Home Program](#) (AHP) assists parents with some of the extraordinary costs of caring for a child with severe disabilities at home through a range of health supports and services.

Who is eligible for the AHP?

The AHP is intended for children with severe disabilities who are dependent in multiple areas of daily living. Children and youth who are assessed as dependent in three of four areas of daily living (eating, dressing, toileting and washing) are eligible for a choice of medical or respite benefits. Those who are dependent in all four areas are eligible for both benefits.

Children and youth who are considered to be palliative by a medical professional, those with certain degenerative conditions (Duchene's Muscular Dystrophy, Spinal Atrophy Type II), and those receiving direct nursing care through Nursing Support Services are also eligible for one or both benefits.

Children and youth must be residents of British Columbia and must be enrolled with the British Columbia Medical Services Plan.

Children or parents in receipt of an insurance settlement or court award related to the child's disability are not eligible for the At Home Program.

What services does AHP provide?

Respite Benefits

Provides funding to purchase respite care for eligible children. Families may choose the type of respite services that best suit their needs, either in their home or at another location.

Medical Benefits

Provides one or more of the following upon the recommendation of a relevant regulated health care professional: medically essential equipment and supplies; hearing aids; dental, optical and orthodontic services related to a disability; extended therapies for school-aged children; medical transportation; PharmaCare coverage; and premium-free MSP coverage.

How is an AHP application made?

The child or youth's parent or guardian completes section A of the application form. A physician must complete section B. Send the completed form to an AHP Coordinator or speak to your local MCFD office. At Home Coordinator contact information is available at: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/contacts.htm

For MCFD local office contact information, visit: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/pdf/regional_cysn_contacts.pdf

Where can I find the application form?

Application forms are available at local Ministry of Children and Family Development offices, from local health units (the telephone number of your local health unit can be found in the blue pages of your telephone directory or call Health Link BC at 811) or online at: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/forms.htm

What's the next step after application?

The AHP Coordinator will review the application and arrange for an assessment, if appropriate. A qualified assessor will contact the family and make an appointment to meet with the child or youth and his or her family. Should additional medical information be required, the AHP Coordinator or the assessor may also contact the referring physician or other health care professionals.

What is the Assessor's role?

The assessor will arrange to visit the child or youth, preferably in the family home. The assessor will complete an assessment of the child or youth's functional abilities in four areas of daily living: dressing, washing, toileting and eating. The assessor will send the assessment to the AHP Coordinator and will provide the parent or guardian with a copy for their records.

Who determines eligibility?

An AHP Regional Eligibility Committee comprised of MCFD staff, medical professionals and community members will review the application and assessment, and will determine eligibility based on established AHP eligibility criteria. The parent or guardian will receive a letter with the eligibility decision.

What if a child is not eligible?

Local MCFD staff will assist in exploring other possible resources or services to support the child or youth and family. Should there be a disagreement with the decision of the Regional Eligibility Committee, information on the complaint resolution process is available at your local MCFD office and online at: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/complaints/index.htm

For more information, access the [At Home Program Guide](#) or visit the program website at: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/index.htm