

# BACKGROUND

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September 16, 2009

Ministry of Children and Family Development

## **DIRECT FUNDING VERSUS INVOICE PAYMENT**

### **INVOICE PAYMENT**

The Invoice Payment option was created in response to requests from many families who found Direct Funding too time-consuming or difficult to manage.

Through an Autism Invoice Payment Agreement, funding is set aside in an “account” held within government in the child’s name and payment is provided directly to service providers for eligible intervention services.

- Parents choose the service(s) they need and the service provider(s), and notify the Autism Funding Unit using a Request to Pay Service Providers/Suppliers form.
- Service providers then send invoices directly to the Autism Funding Unit for payment.
- Account balance information is provided to parents upon request to the Autism Funding Unit.

### **DIRECT FUNDING**

Direct Funding provides funding directly to families through an Autism Funding Agreement.

- Families pay for eligible intervention services using these funds.
- Under the Direct Funding Option, the parent must open a separate bank account, into which only the autism funds may be deposited, and out of which only autism expenses may be withdrawn (an “in trust” account is not required). Expenses must be reported to the Autism Funding Unit on a monthly basis for Autism Funding: Under Age 6, or on a quarterly basis for Autism Funding: Ages 6–18.

### **KEY DIFFERENCES**

Invoice Payment funding is automatically renewed the month after the child's birthday ~ Direct Funding agreements must be renewed annually.

Invoice Payment is GST exempt for all expenses paid directly by government ~ Direct Funding parents must pay GST for autism expenses.

Invoice Payment parents receive confirmation of eligibility prior to payments being made to service providers and are not placed in a situation of having to refund money to the government ~ Direct Funding parents must submit monthly reports with supporting documentation to account for how they spent the autism funding; funds spent on ineligible expenses and unspent funds must be refunded to the government.

Invoice Payment funding is not placed on hold ~ Parents that choose Direct Funding who do not account for funding have their future payments placed on hold until funds are accounted for.

Invoice Payment parents have access to the full annual amount of funding throughout the term of the funding period ~ Direct Funding payments to parents are made in monthly (\$1667 under six) or quarterly (\$1500 6-18 years) payments. For example, parents receiving Invoice Payment may use their entire annual funding in the first few months if needed ~ Direct Funded parents may only access funding based upon the scheduled payment dates.

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