



FACTSHEET: TRANSITIONING YOUTH WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DISCLAIMER: Please note programs use varying terminology in describing eligibility for developmental disabilities services. These may include intellectual disability, developmental disability, or specific terminology from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)*. Check with your local developmental disability service to confirm diagnostic eligibility for the program.

TRANSITIONING A YOUTH WHO HAS BEEN ASSESSED WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Youth with developmental disabilities require specific diagnostic assessments to qualify for developmental disabilities services. Services for children and youth are funded through Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) Programs, while services for adults (age 19+) are funded through Community Living BC (CLBC). Transitioning youth who are receiving developmental disability services through CYSN must establish eligibility through CLBC to receive services as an adult.

Youth receiving Developmental Disabilities services through MCFD must establish eligibility with CLBC to receive benefits as an adult.



Establishing Eligibility for CLBC Services for Transitioning Youth

Community Living BC funds supports and services for adults (age 19+) with developmental disabilities. It is important that transitioning youth with developmental disabilities establish eligibility for CLBC early, to avoid interruption of supports and services. Families can begin the process to establish CLBC eligibility at age 16.

- ▶ Please [click here](#) for information on how to establish eligibility for CLBC services, or enter this link into your browser bit.ly/bcpsclbcelig
- ▶ Please [click here](#) to find your local CLBC office and contact a CLBC facilitator, or enter this link into your browser bit.ly/bcpsclbcfac

Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD) offers navigator services for transitioning youth with developmental disabilities and their families in many communities across BC. Navigators act as the primary point of contact for individuals in coordinating transition planning and access to cross-government supports and services through the transition period of 16-24 years old. Please [click here](#) for contact information for STADD, or enter this link into your browser bit.ly/bcpsstadd

The information in this document is drawn from a variety of sources and was accurate at the time of publication. BCPS acknowledges that this information may be subject to change.



TRANSITIONING A YOUTH WHO HAS NOT YET BEEN ASSESSED FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

As noted above, youth with developmental disabilities require specific diagnostic assessments to qualify for developmental disabilities services.

If the Youth is Enrolled in the CYSN Program

If the youth is enrolled in the CYSN program, contact their CYSN worker to discuss assessment for adult developmental disability services.

- ▶ Please [click here](#) for local CYSN office contact information, or enter this link into your browser bit.ly/bcpscysn

If the Youth is Aged 16+

If the youth is aged 16+, contact CLBC for information on obtaining assessments to qualify for adult developmental disability services.

- ▶ Please [click here](#) for information on how to establish eligibility for CLBC services, or enter this link into your browser bit.ly/bcpsclbcelig
- ▶ Please [click here](#) to find your local CLBC office and contact a CLBC facilitator, or enter this link into your browser bit.ly/bcpsclbcfac

Experiencing Challenges Obtaining a Developmental Disabilities Assessment?

If you and/or the youth/family encounter difficulties obtaining an assessment, consider exploring the following options:

- ▶ The youth could be assessed privately (at a cost). The assessment and documentation must be completed by a qualified BC professional — such as a Registered Psychologist, a Registered Psychological Associate, or a Certified School Psychologist — and reviewed by MCFD's Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) workers. Please [click here](#) for local CYSN office contact information or enter this link into your browser bit.ly/bcpscysn
- ▶ First Nations youth under age 19 may be eligible to have the assessment completed under Jordan's Principle; please [click here](#) to access information about Jordan's Principle
- ▶ CLBC will do the assessment for youth aged 19+, but this will almost certainly mean a delay in being able to access services

Once CLBC eligibility has been established, clients have access to transition navigation supports through the Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD) Navigator Service (see STADD contact information on the previous page).