

ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES INFORMATION SHEET

The Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) program helps parents meet the ongoing extraordinary costs arising from their child's severe disability.

The purpose of the program is to assist children with disabilities to live as normal a life as possible under parental care by providing a benefit to parents to help meet the ongoing extraordinary costs arising from the disability. The ongoing extraordinary costs should represent the additional expenses related to the disability, as opposed to normal costs for any child in the same age group who is not disabled. You may be required to verify these expenses. Please keep receipts.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM OPERATE?

To be eligible for benefits the following requirements must be met:

- the child must be 17 years old or less
- the child must be living at home
- the child must have a severe functional loss
- there must be ongoing extraordinary costs

WHAT IS A SEVERE DISABILITY WHICH RESULTS IN A FUNCTIONAL LOSS?

This means an ongoing mental or physical condition which results in a major loss of ability to engage in any activity considered necessary to normal daily living (i.e. walking, self-feeding, dressing, personal hygiene, communication, etc.)

The above definition is not intended to specifically include or exclude any particular type of disability. It is intended to define the severity of the disability and to determine the limitations within normal daily living.

HOW IS THE BENEFIT DETERMINED?

Your child's special needs are the key factor. Extraordinary costs refer to those expenses which are over and above the normal costs of a non-disabled child. These costs may include diets, clothing, drugs, transportation, or the cost of parental relief.

WHAT IS ENTITLEMENT?

Entitlement varies between the minimum of \$25.00 and the maximum of \$445.00 monthly. The amount granted will represent the approved additional monthly costs that are directly associated with the special needs of the qualifying child. Entitlement is also income tested.

The amount of entitlement depends on:

- family size
- total gross family income as reported on each partner's most recent Canada Customs and Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment (Line 150), together with any income reported by the child with the qualifying disability
- approved ongoing extraordinary costs directly related to your child's disability

Note: For those families with more than one child with a disability, allowable income levels are adjusted and extraordinary expenses are individually determined.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

When ACSD is approved, the following benefits will automatically be made available to your child. They are not transferable to other family members.

- **Drug Card** - A drug benefit card in your child's name will automatically be issued and covers the cost of most prescription drugs. The drug card will not cover the cost of the dispensing fee.
- **Dental Card** - A dental card will automatically be issued and covers the cost of basic dental care.
- **Eyeglasses and/or hearing aids** - Prior approval is required. Please contact your local office for details.

PLEASE CONTACT:	London	(519) 438-5111 (Ext. 3269)	(800) 265-4197
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	Sarnia/Lambton	(519) 254-1651 (Ext. 2298)	(800) 387-7327
	Chatham	(519) 254-1651 (Ext. 2298)	(800) 387-7327
	Windsor	(519) 254-1651 (Ext. 2205)	(800) 387-7327

Further Information is Available at: www.children.gov.on.ca

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