

Nova Scotia Government Disability Supports for Children

Direct Family Support for Children (DFSC)

The Direct Family Support for Children program (DFSC) helps cover the cost of respite care for a child with a significant physical or intellectual disability or a mild to moderate intellectual disability with significant behavioral challenges. The goal is to enhance family support and delay or prevent the need for out-of-home placements.

Eligibility Criteria for DFSC:

- Child is under 19 years of age.
- Child resides with a family member or guardian.
- Family are permanent residents of Nova Scotia.
- Family meets the program's income guidelines.
- Child has documented diagnosis (within the last two years) of:
 - Mild or moderate intellectual disability with significant behavioral challenges.
 - Severe intellectual disability.
 - Significant physical disability with ongoing functional limitations.

Enhanced Family Support for Children (EFSC)

EFSC offers additional funding to families whose children have exceptionally challenging care needs that exceed the support provided by DFSC.

Eligibility Criteria for EFSC:

- Child and family meet all DFSC eligibility requirements.
- Child's care needs are assessed as significant and not adequately addressed by current DFSC funding.
- Family faces significant challenges accessing community support impacting their ability to care for the child.

Important Notes:

- Diagnosis of Autism alone is not sufficient to be eligible for DFSC OR EFSC. Caregivers need to provide medical documentation that details the child's degree of impairment.
- EFSC does not cover full-time 24/7 in-home support.
- It does not compensate caregivers for their caregiving role.

For more information about the Direct Family Support for Children (DFSC) program Scan here or visit: [Direct Family Support | Nova Scotia Department of Community Services](#)



Disclaimer: The programs discussed above are administered by the government of Nova Scotia and are subject to change. Please visit the government of Nova Scotia Government Disability Supports Program for up-to-date information about programs and eligibility criteria. This information is for educational purposes only and should not replace the recommendations of medical, legal or financial professionals.