

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Individualized Funding FAQs

Autism Spectrum Disorder Individualized Funding (ASD-IF) is available for children up to age 11 with a diagnosis of ASD. Out-of-province diagnosis must be reviewed by an [ASD consultant](#) who may consult with a Saskatchewan Health Authority psychologist if needed.

What is Individualized Funding?

Individualized funding allows parents to purchase services that best suit their child's individual needs. This will give parents the flexibility to choose from a range of eligible therapeutic interventions, respite and supports that will most benefit their child.

How do I know if I am eligible to receive this funding?

Only children up to age 11 who have been diagnosed with ASD are eligible for funding. If you think your child may have ASD, contact an ASD consultant in the community closest to you. You can refer to the ASD Services Directory at <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/redirect.cfm?p=89623&i=106463>.

How do I apply?

Application materials and information about the process for the ASD Individualized Funding program are available on www.saskatchewan.ca/autism.

The Ministry of Social Services is accepting applications, and funding is now being provided to parents. People with questions about funding and how to apply can contact Social Services at 1-833-304-1774 or autismif@gov.sk.ca.

What services can I purchase using this money?

You can view and download a list of eligible services at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca:443/api/v1/products/114832/formats/129818/download>

How do I know what services would be best for my child?

Parents/caregivers are encouraged to consult with a Saskatchewan Health Authority ASD consultant to assist them with identifying intervention services and supports that would be most beneficial for their child.

Why are some services eligible and some are not?

The goal of ASD-IF is to provide families with funds for effective interventions that result in improvements to the child's functional abilities and/or family supports (e.g. respite) that promote the well-being of the family.

The lists of eligible and ineligible services were developed and any future changes will be made with input from the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG), the public engagement survey results and best practice knowledge.

Are other interventions like art therapy and music therapy covered?

These services are not covered. ASD-IF focuses on evidence-based therapy and services provided by regulated service providers. Expanding the program to include other therapies may be considered in the future.

Can I spend the funding on travel to other provinces to receive services?

Travel is permitted within Saskatchewan to access services. Allowing funds to be used for travel will provide access for families living in rural and remote areas so they can either travel to the service provider or pay the service provider to travel to them. Travel to other provinces is not eligible.

Can I spend the funding on eligible services provided out of province?

ASD-IF may not be spent out of province. Any amount spent outside of Saskatchewan will be considered an ineligible expense.

How much funding will I get every year?

Families will receive \$8,000 per year, per child under the age of six (at time of application) with a diagnosis of ASD or \$6,000 per year, per child between the ages of six and 11 with a diagnosis of ASD.

When can I expect to receive the money every year? And how will I receive it?

Families will receive the first benefit upon approval of their application. Families are required to submit a renewal application within one month of their anniversary date (month of initial application) to receive their annual benefit. For the purpose of determining an anniversary date for families whose children previously aged out; the anniversary date will be considered the month in which they reapplied.

What if my child turns 12 during the year – will I receive a pro-rated amount?

No – you will receive the full annual benefit in the month of your initial application anniversary date so long as the child is under the age of 12 at that time.

How is the Government of Saskatchewan going to ensure families spend the money appropriately?

Parents and caregivers will be required to retain expense receipts and tracking of all ASD-IF related expenses throughout the benefit year (month of application and the following 11 months). Parents and caregivers eligible for a renewal must submit the [expense tracking sheet](#) of all expenses totaling the full ASD-IF benefit with the renewal application.

What if I do not have tracking for all expenses and my renewal application is coming up?

Parents and caregivers will be advised at the time of their initial application or next renewal that expense tracking reporting will be required at the time of the following renewal.

What if I am not able to spend my total annual benefit or spent money on ineligible services?

Unused portions and money spent on ineligible services will be deducted from the following year's benefit.

What if I need help keeping track of expenses and tracking?

The Ministry of Social Services has provided an [expense tracking sheet](#) to assist parents and caregivers in tracking expenditures.

Is ASD-IF considered income and do I have to claim it?

ASD-IF is not a taxable benefit; therefore, individuals receiving this funding do not need to claim it as income for income tax purposes. ASD-IF is also exempt for any families who receive income assistance.

Will autism services still be provided publicly through the Saskatchewan Health Authority?

Autism services will continue to be provided in the public system, as before. ASD-IF is in addition to what is already available to families.

Who do I contact for more information?

For information related to **eligible services and the service provider registry**, contact the Ministry of Health at 1-800-667-7766 or info@health.gov.sk.ca.

For information related to **applications and payments**, contact the Ministry of Social Services at 1-833-304-1774 or autismif@gov.sk.ca.