

<b>Eligibility Policy</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	February 2003
	<b>Applicable to</b>	Children’s disABILITY Services
	<b>Next Review Date</b>	
	<b>Date Reviewed:</b>	May 2024
<b>Branch/Division:</b> Disability and Specialized Services/ Community Service Delivery	<b>Date Revised</b>	June 2024
<b>Responsible Authority:</b> Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Service Delivery		
<b>Policy Owner:</b> Director, Children’s disABILITY Services		

### 1.0 Policy Statement

Children’s disABILITY Services (CDS) supports eligible families raising children with developmental or lifelong physical disabilities, to meet the additional disability related needs they may have.

### 2.0 Background/Context

CDS is a non-statutory, voluntary and discretionary program that supports eligible families in caring for children with disabilities at home in their communities, where children grow and thrive.

As families may have additional needs related to their children’s disabilities, CDS offers a variety of resources and supports to eligible families, using a flexible individualized family-centred approach that respects families, facilitates self-sufficiency and inclusion, and accommodates regional differences, to support children with disabilities to achieve their fullest potential. CDS also works with other government and community service partners in supporting families and children with disabilities in Manitoba.

Eligibility for the Children’s disABILITY Services program does not confer automatic entitlement to service or support.

### 3.0 Purpose

This policy defines the eligibility criteria for Children’s disABILITY Services.

### 4.0 Definitions

**Resident of Manitoba:** For the purposes of this policy, children are deemed a resident of Manitoba if their primary residence is located in a community within the Province of Manitoba, with the exclusion of First Nations communities (see section [5.5 Residents of First Nation Communities](#) for more information on services for residents of First Nation communities).

**URIS Group A:** Children classified as URIS Group A require at least one of the following health care procedures: ventilator care; tracheostomy care; suctioning (tracheal/pharyngeal); nasogastric tube care and/or feeding; complex administration of medication (i.e. via infusion pump, nasogastric tube or injection other than auto-injector);

central or peripheral venous line intervention; or other clinical interventions requiring judgements and decision making by a medical or nursing professional.

## 5.0 Policy

### 5.1.1 Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Children's disABILITY Services, a child must:

- (i) Be under 18 years of age

**AND**

- (ii) Be a resident of Manitoba

**AND**

- (iii) Live with their birth, extended, or adoptive family, or with their legal guardian

**AND**

- (iv) (a) Present with one of the following:

- An intellectual disability, with an IQ of 75 or less
- A developmental delay, with a DQ of 75 or less
- A lifelong physical disability with significant functional limitations in mobility that require the use of prescribed mobility aids
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21); Prader-Willi Syndrome; Rett Syndrome; WAGR Syndrome; Angelman Syndrome; Leigh Syndrome; Cri-Du-Chat Syndrome
- Lifelong, extreme, complex medical needs (URIS Group A) **in combination with one or more of the above criteria**

**OR**

- (b) Have a high probability of developmental delay due to one of the following:

- A condition of known etiology where developmental delay is a probable outcome
- A parent with a diagnosed intellectual disability
- Significant prematurity (1500 grams or less) with a combination of medical and/or biological factors, including but not limited to metabolic abnormalities, central nervous system lesion or infection, multiple congenital anomalies or genetic disorders

### 5.1.2 Lifelong Physical Disability with Significant Mobility Limitations that Require Use of Prescribed Mobility Aids

To meet the eligibility criteria for the category of lifelong physical disability with significant functional limitations in mobility, the following conditions must be met:

- A) Is the child mobile only with the use of mobility aids (wheelchair, braces, stroller, etc.)?
- B) Is the child unable to access any of their environments in an age-appropriate manner, such as their home, school, or community?

If the answers to A) and any listed environment of B) are “**YES**”, and all other eligibility criteria are met, the child is eligible for CDS under the category of lifelong physical disability with significant functional limitations in mobility.

### 5.1.3 High Probability of Developmental Delay

Children must be referred prior to the age of two in order to be assessed for CDS under the high probability of developmental delay category.

Eligibility under the high probability of developmental delay category is provisional and thus children are not presumed to remain eligible for CDS indefinitely. Children enrolled under this category must be referred for a developmental or intellectual assessment within two years of their eligibility determination for CDS, in order to be assessed for ongoing eligibility for CDS.

Children enrolled under the high probability of developmental delay category may access CDS supports based on their assessed need and availability of resources.

### 5.1.4 Developmental Delay – Reassessment

A child with a diagnosis of a developmental delay may experience significant progress as they develop. As initial assessment results may not be conclusive or remain accurate over time, a child enrolled in CDS with a diagnosis of developmental delay is not presumed to remain eligible for CDS indeterminately.

Parents or guardians should be informed at the time of enrollment that reassessment may be required to review ongoing eligibility for CDS should information or circumstances indicate that their child has made significant developmental progress or gains.

### 5.2.1 Exclusions to Eligibility

A child shall not be determined as eligible for CDS based on any of the following conditions:

- A temporary physical disability
- Cultural or economic factors
- The normal process of additional language acquisition

### 5.2.2 Children Whose Guardian is Child and Family Services (CFS)

Funding of services for children whose guardian is Child and Family Services (CFS) is the responsibility of the involved CFS agency.

However, children whose guardian is CFS who otherwise meet CDS eligibility may receive the following from CDS:

- Child development services, if age six or younger only
- Disability-related supports as part of a transitional plan to return a child home from a CFS agency

### **5.2.3 Children Who Are Hard of Hearing/Deaf or Partially Sighted/Blind**

Children who are hard of hearing/deaf or partially sighted/blind do not qualify under the category of lifelong physical disability solely on that basis. They must present with one or more of the conditions listed in 5.1.1 (iv) (a) or (b) to be eligible for CDS services.

Despite this, CDS may provide transportation assistance to children who are hard of hearing/deaf or partially sighted/blind and reside in regions outside of Winnipeg where specialized disability related professional services are not available.

### **5.2.4 Children Diagnosed with Phenylketonuria (PKU)**

Children diagnosed with phenylketonuria (PKU) do not qualify under the category of high probability of developmental delay solely on that basis. See the PKU policy for more details.

### **5.2.5 Children with Spina Bifida**

Children with spina bifida do not qualify for Children's disABILITY Services solely on the basis of this diagnosis. Children with spina bifida must present with one or more of the conditions listed in 5.1.1 (iv) (a) or (b) to be eligible for CDS services.

Despite this, CDS may provide incontinence supplies and transportation assistance to access professional services in accordance with the relevant program policy to children with spina bifida who do not present with any of the conditions listed in 5.1.1 (iv) (a) or (b) for enrollment on the CDS program.

## **5.3 Referral to Children's disABILITY Services**

Referrals are made using the [CDS Referral and Intake Application form](#) and must be accompanied with written diagnosis from a qualified professional based on appropriate assessment procedures and/or instruments. Additional information may be requested from referral sources or assessing clinician, if diagnostic information is incomplete or inconclusive to determine eligibility.

Referrals to CDS may originate from parents/guardians and/or third parties. For referrals originating from third parties, referral sources should ensure that parents/guardians are informed, and agree with the referral to CDS.

#### 5.4 Qualified Professionals for Providing Diagnoses to Determine Eligibility for CDS

Qualified professional refers to a person who is registered or licensed with their professional association and who is able to make diagnoses relevant to their scope of practice. For the purposes of determining eligibility, CDS accepts diagnoses from the designated professionals in accordance to their scope of practice as indicated in the following table:

Eligibility Criteria	Qualified Professional
Global Developmental Delay DQ $\leq$ 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmental Pediatrician</li> </ul>
Intellectual Disability FSIQ $\leq$ 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered Psychologist</li> <li>• School Psychologist</li> </ul>
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmental Pediatrician</li> <li>• Registered Psychologist</li> <li>• School Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> </ul>
Lifelong Physical Disability with Significant Limitations in Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor</li> <li>• Nurse Practitioner</li> <li>• Occupational Therapist</li> <li>• Physiotherapist</li> </ul>
Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21); Prader-Willi Syndrome; Rett Syndrome; WAGR Syndrome; Angelman Syndrome; Leigh Syndrome; Cri-Du-Chat Syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geneticist</li> <li>• Health care provider</li> </ul>
High Probability of Developmental Delay <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geneticist</li> <li>• Health care provider</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Children of parents with an intellectual disability do not require an assessment from a qualified professional to be eligible for CDS under the High Probability of Developmental Delay category.

#### 5.5 Residents of First Nation Communities

Funding for services in First Nations communities is the responsibility of the Government of Canada. Therefore, in order to avoid duplication, children living in First Nations communities access services and supports in their community through their local Jordan’s Principle case manager/service coordinator.

CDS will support families and First Nations partners by providing information, service navigation and consultative support, in order to improve the coordination of services for First Nations children. When contacted for service, CDS staff should first assess the nature and urgency of the family’s needs. CDS staff will provide contact information for the local Jordan’s Principle case manager or offer to connect with Jordan’s Principle staff or service providers on behalf of the family.

## 5.6 Eligibility for Family Supports

As a non-statutory program, CDS is voluntary and discretionary. This means:

- Services are provided to eligible families who wish to access the program
- Eligibility for CDS does not confer automatic entitlement to service for children with disabilities and their families

The delivery of services and supports are subject to assessed needs, eligibility criteria as outlined in policy, the availability of financial resources, regional financial allocations and human resource capacity.

## 5.7 Assessment and Qualification for the Primary Caregiver Tax Credit

CDS has assessing authority to determine CDS-eligible children's eligibility as qualified care recipients for the Primary Caregiver Tax Credit (PCGTC).

All CDS-eligible children, ages three and older, meet the criteria as qualified care recipients for the PCGTC. However, children eligible for CDS with life-long physical disabilities with significant mobility limitations that require use of prescribed mobility aids, complex medical needs (URIS Group A), or who have high needs URIS Group B (requires a g-tube and/or has a complex seizure disorder and/or requires oxygen) AND has an accompanying developmental delay, meet eligibility for the PCGTC regardless of their age.

Children accessing supports per sections *5.2.3 Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing or Partially-Sighted/Blind*, *5.2.4 Children Diagnosed with Phenylketonuria (PKU)* and *5.2.5 Children with Spina Bifida* are not assessed by CDS for the PCGTC, as they do not meet the disability criteria for enrollment for CDS. However, these children may have their level of care assessed by a doctor or nurse practitioner to determine their qualification for the PCGTC.

## Appendix

### Resources for children diagnosed with other conditions who do not meet CDS eligibility

Children diagnosed with any of the following conditions, where there is no intellectual disability or lifelong physical disability with significant functional limitations in mobility, do not meet the eligibility criteria for CDS.

The following reference is intended to be a guide rather than an exhaustive list of available services. Practitioners with expertise in a specific area will be able to provide a comprehensive list of services and supports that may be available to families.

Other Conditions	Children May be Referred to
Typically developing children who present with emotional, behavioural, psychiatric disorders or other mental health concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regional Health Authorities</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba</a></li> </ul>
Children with learning disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Learning Disabilities Association of Manitoba</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">School Divisions</a></li> </ul>
Speech and language disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba*</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">School Divisions</a></li> <li>• Private health insurance</li> </ul>
Neurological disorders (seizure disorder, brain injury, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect (FAS/E) – <b>without cognitive or physical disability</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Manitoba Possible*</a></li> <li>• Regional Health Authorities</li> <li>• <a href="#">Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Manitoba FASD Network</a></li> </ul>
Children who are <u>either</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sick and becoming well</li> <li>• Have a terminal illness</li> <li>• Have a medical condition which does not typically result in a lifelong mental or physical disability</li> </ul>	The health care system has the expertise and mandate to provide the required care. The following services may be accessed through the RHAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Home Care</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba*</a></li> <li>• Social work supports</li> </ul>
Partially Sighted/Blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada*</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">School Divisions</a></li> </ul>
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Manitoba Possible*</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Central Speech and Hearing Clinic*</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">School Divisions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba*</a></li> </ul>

\* Indicates receives funding from Children's disABILITY Services.