

Autism Spectrum Disorder-Individualized Funding FAQs

Autism Spectrum Disorder Individualized Funding (ASD-IF) is available for children up to age 11 with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Out-of-province diagnosis must be reviewed by an [ASD Consultant](#) who may consult with a Saskatchewan Health Authority Psychologist, if needed. ASD Consultants deliver consultation and support services to ASD individuals up to the age of 19 years and provide clinical supervision to the teams providing therapies, supports, and programming.

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](#).

How do I apply?

Application materials and information about the process for the ASD-IF program are available on www.saskatchewan.ca/autism. If you have questions about funding and how to apply, you can contact the Ministry of 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 an 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 by the Stakeholder Working Group (including parents, autism service providers, and the Ministries of Health, Education, and Social Services). Any future changes may be made with input from the working group, public engagement survey results, and best practice knowledge.

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

No. Travel to other provinces is not eligible. Travel is permitted within Saskatchewan to access services; except for travel within 100 kilometers of Creighton/Flin Flon and Lloydminster. Allowing funds to be used for travel within the province 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.

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

No, ASD-IF may not be spent out of province. Any amount spent outside of Saskatchewan, except for Creighton/Flin Flon and Lloydminster, will be considered an ineligible expense.

How much funding will I get every year?

Families are eligible to receive up to \$8,000 per year, per child under the age of six (at time of application) with a diagnosis of ASD or up to \$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 month (month of initial application) to receive their annual benefit. Benefits are calculated based on proof of expenses from the previous year and eligible rate. Your approval period is twelve months including anniversary month. Unused funds or funds spend on ineligible items will be deducted from your renewal payment.

To determine an anniversary month for families whose children previously aged out, the anniversary date will be considered the month in which they re-applied.

How do I submit my expenses?

Parents and caregivers are required to submit proof of expenses as outlined in their approval letter either by submitting the expense tracking sheet at time of renewal, or by using the online client portal on saskatchewan.ca/autism.

If you applied or renewed between July 27, 2021 and June 30, 2022, you must submit your expense tracking sheet with your renewal application.

If you renew on or after July 1, 2022, you must submit your expenses by using the online client portal on saskatchewan.ca/autism. Parents and caregivers may submit expenses throughout their entire benefit year, up to and including, the last day of their benefit year.

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.

What if I do not have a copy of my invoice or receipt?

Parents and caregivers are required to retain receipts however, you may request proof for purchase from the service provider or vendor if you have lost or misplaced your receipt.

For proof of expense for items such as respite, mileage or other items with no receipts, parents and caregivers are required to complete and submit the [ASD-IF Invoice Form](#) and submit with their expense submission.

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

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

What if I have a concern with a decision made about the eligibility of my expense submission?

Parents and caregivers may request decisions related to the eligibility of expenses be reviewed by the Ministry of Social Services, by completing and submitting the Expense Request for Review Form found on saskatchewan.ca/autism within thirty (30) days of receiving the written decision. Please contact the Ministry of Social Services at 1-833-304-1774 or autismif@gov.sk.ca on how to have an expense reviewed.

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

No. ASD IF is considered a disability support and T5007s will not be issued to parents/caregivers. For all income tax related questions, you are encouraged to contact the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or your tax specialist.

Can parents split the benefit?

Only one parent/caregiver can request the ASD-IF benefits on behalf of the child.

Benefits will only be paid to one parent/caregiver. Parents/caregivers must reach an agreement regarding which parent applies and how the funds may be shared.

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

Yes. 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.