

Saskatchewan Assisted Adoption Program

What is the Assisted Adoption Program?

The Assisted Adoption Program was implemented to support wards formerly in permanent care of the Minister who are adopted. The program assists children who have an identified predisposition to a physical, mental or emotional disability that impacts their health and development. The program supports children:

- with a range of special needs;
- placed as part of a sibling group;
- whose family requires additional supports; or
- adopted by extended family

Eligibility

Children adopted through the Domestic Adoption Program, which applies to children in permanent care of the Minister or 'Crown wards' are eligible. Crown wards are children who, under *The Child and Family Services Act*, have been voluntarily placed with the Minister by the birth parent, or have been permanently committed to the care of the Minister through a court process.

Children are eligible to age 18, and benefits can be extended to age 21 to support approved transition plans that focus on education, vocation or life skills.

Children adopted privately or through the Intercountry Adoption Program are not eligible.

Assisted Adoption Agreements

An Assisted Adoption Agreement is made between the adoptive family and the Ministry, and outlines the types of assistance being provided.

Agreements can be signed prior to or after the Order of Adoption is granted, and can be modified to reflect a child's changing needs. Adoptive families may appeal any decision made by the Ministry.

Benefits

There are three types of benefits available through the Assisted Adoption Program:

- 1. Monthly Maintenance** – is equal to 90% of the current foster care maintenance rate, and is intended to assist in meeting a child's daily care needs.
- 2. Special Needs Benefits** - may be granted in excess of the monthly maintenance to support a specific need that cannot be met through private means (e.g. insurance plans) or community/public services. They are granted as part of an approved plan, and may include:
 - therapies, specialized counseling and/or rehabilitation;
 - dental, orthodontic or medical expenses not covered by any other program or plan;
 - medical supplies (not including prescription medications);
 - special diet;

- life-skills teaching or mentoring;
- parent training and education;
- therapeutic day care or respite;
- camp fees; and
- travel expenses for an approved trip related to specialized services.

3. Supplementary Health Program

– a child may receive Supplementary Health benefits that cover a range of health services and products.

When a child is placed for adoption prior to the Order of Adoption being granted in court, program benefits begin on the date of placement.

Annual Review

Adoptive parents must agree to participate in an annual review of benefits. The purpose is to assess the need for ongoing or new supports in relation to the development of the child. Reviews are conducted only where maintenance and/or special needs benefits have been provided in the previous year.

Further Information

For further information, contact the Adoption Support Centre of Saskatchewan toll-free at 1-866-869-2727, or visit their website at www.adoptionsask.org.

If you are currently receiving benefits, please contact your Adoption Worker.