

Guidelines

One-Time Direct Funding

Autism Intervention Program

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

May 2016

Section I:

Overview of Autism One-Time Funding

Families with children five years and older and on the waitlist for Intensive Behavioural Intervention through the Autism Intervention Program (AIP), will be transitioned off the waitlist and will receive \$8,000 per child in one-time funding to purchase eligible community services and supports to help meet their child's needs.

For children who will turn five during the transition period (i.e., between May 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018), families will be offered a choice of receiving the \$8,000 per child in one-time funding at any time during the transition period prior to the child's fifth birthday. Families who choose to receive the funding prior to their child's fifth birthday will be removed from the IBI waitlist. Children who turn 5 during the transition period will receive the one-time funding and be transitioned off the waitlist. Those children who enter IBI service during the transition period are no longer eligible for the one-time funding.

Families who receive the funding are required to account for the use of funds by submitting documentation and invoices to the AIP lead providers. Once the one-time funding has been spent and the funds reconciled by the AIP lead provider to the threshold of \$7,000, children are eligible to receive, when a space is available for them, either Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) services and supports in 2016 or 2017, or service through the new Ontario Autism Program beginning in 2018.

Children will remain and retain their spot on the ABA waitlist while they receive the one-time funding. If families are not already on the ABA waitlist, service providers will encourage families to join the ABA waitlist immediately.

Families can also access other ministry programs for children with special needs for which they are eligible, such as healthy child development programs, children's rehabilitation services and respite services, as well as other autism services including, March break and summer camps and Autism Ontario's Potential Programme. Families, where eligible, can also continue to access the Special Services at Home (SSAH) and the Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) programs while families are spending the \$8,000 in one-time funding.

Section II:
Administration of Autism One-Time Funding

Through a Funding Agreement, the Autism Intervention Program (AIP) is providing funding in one lump sum payment per child directly to the parent/caregiver that signed the Funding Agreement. Parent is defined as the legal guardian of the child who is primarily responsible for the care and upbringing of the child.

AIP providers will offer to meet with families individually to explain the transition to the one-time funding arrangement and how the funding can be used. At this meeting, providers may offer suggestions or advice about services that may be helpful to assist families to make informed choices for their children.

AIP lead providers will not be clinically re-assessing children's service needs as part of the transition to one-time funding or providing clinical oversight of the services selected and purchased by families.

The parent will choose eligible community services that, in his or her view, best suit their child's needs and the parent is responsible for paying service providers for those services directly using the funding. Please see Section III for a list of eligible expenses.

The parent must account for the use of the child's funding by submitting documentation to their AIP lead provider. Required documentation includes a record of who provided the service(s), with signature and verification from the service provider, and clear proof of payment. In the case of equipment purchases, documentation must also include a letter of recommendation for the purchase from the child's service provider. For other interventions, not on the list of eligible services outlined in Section III, a letter of recommendation from a regulated health professional* must accompany the invoice.

Documentation may be submitted for eligible services received/purchased on or after May 1, 2016.

If it is found that the one-time funding was spent on ineligible expenses, the AIP lead provider will take steps to recover the funds from the parent who signed the Funding Agreement. All documentation submitted to the AIP lead provider is subject to audit by the ministry.

It is the responsibility of parents to determine their obligations with respect to this funding for income tax purposes.

*For a list of Regulated Health Professionals, please refer to Ontario's *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, c. 18*

Section III:

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

Questions about eligible or ineligible expenses may be directed to the service provider.

Direct Funding may be used for the following:

- Behaviour consultants/analysts
- Speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists
- Behaviour interventionists
- Life skills and social skills programs
- Out-of-school learning support/tutoring (not part of the regular school program)
- ASD specialized therapeutic activities and camps
- Dietary counseling from a registered dietician
- Family counseling/therapy
- Respite
- Parent training
- General recreation activities/lessons
- Psychological assessments
- Other interventions as recommended by a regulated health professional
 - Letter of recommendation must accompany the invoice
- Travel within Ontario associated with the above listed services
- Computers and/or touch screen tablets and associated software
 - Invoices for a computer, touch screen tablet or smart phone must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a child's service provider
- The above listed services where provided out of province (but within Canada), and associated travel

Direct Funding may not be used for the following:

- Home repairs, renovations, swimming pools, hot tubs, trampolines, playground equipment, toys
- Household items, including appliances
- Fitness equipment
- Televisions
- Vitamins, medical supplies, orthotics
- Clothing
- Monthly smart phone bills and/or data plans
- Grocery bills