

Eligibility Policy	Date Approved February 2003
Branch/Division: Disability Policy/ Policy, Programs and Legislation	Applicable to Children's disABILITY Services
Responsible Authority: Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Programs and Legislation	Next Review Date Date Reviewed: November 2024 Date Revised February 2025
Policy Owner: Executive Director, Disability Policy	

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 CDS program does not automatically result in service or support.

3.0 Purpose

This policy defines the eligibility criteria for CDS.

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 Manitoba.

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 CDS, 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 development 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 CDS 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 CDS

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 ≤ 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Pediatrician
Intellectual Disability FSIQ ≤ 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Psychologist • School Psychologist
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Pediatrician • Registered Psychologist • School Psychologist • Psychiatrist
Lifelong Physical Disability with Significant Limitations in Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor • Nurse Practitioner • Occupational Therapist • Physiotherapist
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"> • Geneticist • Health care provider
High Probability of Developmental Delay ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geneticist • Health care provider

¹Children 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 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.