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| Eligibility Policy | | DATE APPROVED | February 2003 |
| BRANCH/DIVISION: | Children's disABILITY Services (CDS)/ Community Service Delivery | APPLICABLE TO | Children's disABILITY Services |
| RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: | | NEXT REVIEW DATE | |
| | ADM, Community Service Delivery Department of Families | DATE REVIEWED: | March 31, 2019 |
| POLICY OWNER: | Director, CDS | DATE REVISED | March 31, 2019 |

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

Children's disABILITY Services supports families raising children with developmental or lifelong physical disabilities, to meet the additional disability-related needs they may have.

2.0 BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Eligibility for the Children's disABILITY Services program does not confer automatic entitlement to service or support. Delivery of services through Children's disABILITY Services are subject to eligibility criteria, assessed needs, annual provincial and regional budget limitations and appropriate human resources.

3.0 PURPOSE

This policy defines the eligibility criteria for enrollment in Children's disABILITY Services.

4.1 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 live with their birth, extended or adoptive family¹;
AND EITHER
- (iii) (a) Present with one of the following:
 - A intellectual disability, with an IQ of 75 or less;
 - A developmental delay², with a DQ of 75 or less;
 - A lifelong physical disability with significant functional limitations in mobility;
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); or
 - Lifelong, extreme, complex medical needs (URIS Group A³)
in combination with one or more of the above criteria.

OR

(b) Have a high probability of developmental delay due to:

- A condition of known etiology where developmental delay is a probable outcome (e.g., Down Syndrome, Phenylketonuria (PKU), children who are both deaf and blind**);
- A parent with an intellectual disability; and
- 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.

****Note**

Children who are determined eligible due to a high probability of developmental delay under subsection (iii)(b) must be referred for reassessment within two years of the date eligibility is first determined in order to assess eligibility for continued enrollment in the program according to the criteria listed in subsection (iii)(a).

¹ Children who are in the care of a Child and Family Service Agency and who meet the Children's disABILITY Services eligibility criteria may receive the following supports from Children's disABILITY Services:

- Children ages six and under may access child development service only from the regional office. The availability of this service through Children's disABILITY Services is not intended to replace existing service or funding arrangements within the region. Once the need for service provision is confirmed, the region should open a file for the child and follow normal regional procedures; and
- Families are eligible for supports from Children's disABILITY Services prior to, and as part of a transitional plan to return a child home from a Child and Family Service agency.

² A developmental delay shall not be determined based on any of the following:

- A temporary physical disability;
- Cultural or economic factors; and
- The normal process of second language acquisition.

³ 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.

4.2 CHILDREN WHO ARE HARD OF HEARING/DEAF OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED/BLIND

Children's disABILITY Services provides support for children who are hard of hearing/deaf or visually impaired/blind through funding to the following agencies: Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Society for Manitobans with Disabilities and Central Speech and Hearing Clinic. In regions outside of Winnipeg, resources may not be adequate to support children who have visual or hearing impairments. In these cases, consideration may be given by the region to provide services based on assessment.

4.3 EXCLUSIONS TO ELIGIBILITY

Children with the following groups of conditions, where there is no intellectual disability or lifelong physical disability with significant functional limitations in mobility, are not eligible for services through Children's disABILITY Services. However, as indicated below, there are other service providers that may be able to provide supports and services.

| Other Conditions | Children May be Referred to ¹ |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically developing children who present with emotional, behavioral, psychiatric disorders or other mental health concerns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children with learning disabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning Disabilities Association of Manitoba School Divisions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech and language disorders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s Therapy Initiative School Divisions Private health insurance |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neurological disorders (seizure disorder, brain injury, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect (FAS/E) – without cognitive or physical disability) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society for Manitobans with Disabilities Regional Health Authorities Children’s Therapy Initiative Manitoba FASD Centre |
| <p>Children who are <u>either</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sick and becoming well Have a terminal illness Have a medical condition which does not typically result in a lifelong mental or physical disability | <p>The health care system has the expertise and mandate to provide the required care. The following services may be accessed through the RHAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Care Children’s Therapy Initiative Social Work supports |

¹ This 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.

****NOTE**

Funding for services to status First Nations children living on reserve is the responsibility of the Government of Canada. Therefore, in order to avoid duplication, children living in First Nations communities will continue to access services and supports available in their community through their local Jordan’s Principle case manager/service coordinator. Children’s disABILITY Services 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 Nation’s children. When contacted for service, Children’s disABILITY Services staff should first assess the nature and urgency of the family’s needs. Children’s disABILITY Services staff will then provide contact information for the family’s local Jordan’s Principle case manager or offer to connect with Jordan’s Principle staff or service providers on behalf of the family.

5.0 STANDARDS

5.1 QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL

Determination of eligibility requires a written diagnosis by a qualified professional, based on established appropriate assessment procedures and/or instruments.

5.2 LIFELONG PHYSICAL DISABILITY WITH SIGNIFICANT MOBILITY LIMITATIONS THAT REQUIRE USE OF PRESCRIBED MOBILITY AIDS

To assist in the assessment of eligibility for Children’s disABILITY Services under this criteria, the following questions can be applied to clarify whether a child with a physical disability would be eligible:

- a) Is the child mobile without aids (wheelchair, braces, stroller, etc.)?
- b) Can the child access his/her environment in an age-appropriate manner at:
 - Home;
 - School; and
 - Community.

If the answer to a) and any sub-category of b) is “no”, and the child is under 18, lives with his natural, extended or adoptive family and is a Manitoba resident, then the child is eligible.

5.3 HIGH PROBABILITY OF DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY – REASSESSMENT

Children who are eligible due to “a high probability of developmental delay” may experience significant progress as they develop, and initial assessment results may not be conclusive or remain accurate over time. Therefore, staff shall:

- Be aware that a child who had previously been deemed eligible may not create a presumption that they will continue to meet CDS eligibility criteria.
- Inform parents or guardians at the time of enrollment that should information or circumstance indicate that the child has made significant developmental progress or gains, formal assessment will be required and eligibility will be reviewed.