

Newfoundland and Labrador Special Child Welfare Allowance Program

The Newfoundland and Labrador Special Child Welfare Allowance Program is a benefit program, run by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Health and Community Services that provides financial assistance to families who have a child living with a disability. The purpose of this funding is primarily to assist families (including relatives) offset some of the costs of additional services/ supports incurred in the at-home maintenance of children with developmental and/or physical disabilities.

Eligible families will receive a monthly allowance, determined in conjunction with government staff, to pay for their child's disability needs. More information on the Newfoundland and Labrador Special Child Welfare Allowance Program can be found [here](#).

The Newfoundland and Labrador Special Child Welfare Allowance Program *Application Process*



Confirm Child and Family Eligibility

To be eligible for the NL Special Child Welfare Allowance (NL SCWA) you must:

- Be a family (parent or relative) who is caring for a child living with a long term disability at home;
- Meet the financial need criteria determined by the NL government.



Apply for the SWCA

The SWCA is a program of last resort for families with children with disabilities. Families are required to first seek out other program support before seeking funding from the SWCA. For example, they should apply to the Drug Prescription Plan prior to asking the SWCA for funds to cover the prescription drug costs for their child.

To apply for the SWCA, families can reach out to their regional health authority for access to the initial application form. To find out your regional health authority please check [here](#).

Families will receive a response on their initial application within 30 days of the referral.



Submit Additional Documents

In addition to the initial application, families must submit supporting documentation from a qualified professional verifying the disability and the needs of the child. This can include medical professionals, social workers and psychologists.



Participate in a Social Worker Visit

Once the application has been submitted and reviewed the Department of Community Services will conduct a social worker home visit to evaluate the needs of the child's disability. These needs that can be covered by the SWCA include:

- Medications (that are not covered by the NL Drug Prescription Program);
- Transportation to appointments/activities which are disability related (i.e. medical appointments or social/recreational activities);
- Special Equipment, Apparatus and Supplies - if it is critical to the well-being of the child;
- Disposable diapers.

The NL SWCA may also cover the costs of supportive services. The social worker will evaluate whether the following requirements have been met:

- Any support that is hired is in addition to the supervision that the family would provide;
- Home support will only be provided if the supervision need greatly exceeds that which must be provided to all children;
- Babysitting or childcare to enable employment will only be considered for children over the age of 12 years old.
- Generally fees for childcare will not be considered unless it is recommended by a professional;
- Escorts to medical appointments or other activities will only be recovered when parents require physical support in managing the child;
- One-on-one support in licensed child care may be considered;
- Residential short term respite care may be covered.



Financial Eligibility Review

Once the initial application and social worker home visit feedback has been reviewed, staff at your local regional health authority will conduct a financial assessment. The financial eligibility and monthly allowance is outlined on page 20-25 of the [NL SWCA manual](#).

In addition to determining financial eligibility, the staff at the Regional Health Authority will determine the amount of your monthly allowance by creating an Independent Support Services Plan for your child..

Approval for the SWCA

If approved you will be notified by your Regional Health Authority. They will also inform you of your monthly allowance.

You should be notified within 30 days of the referral.

Rejected from the SWCA

If rejected you will receive a notification stating that you did not receive the funding. You have the ability to seek a review or exception to the decision. For more information please follow up with the government staff who contacted

Receive Payments:

When a Special Child Welfare Allowance has been approved, funds will be issued either through recurring pay or short term pay. Families will be required to provide documentation and receipts for expenses paid for with the SWCA.

Annual Review and Notify the Government of Any Changes:

A family's eligibility criteria and allowance amount shall be reviewed by Regional Health Authority Staff every 12 months.

In addition to the annual reviews ensure to notify the government of any changes to your income or family status.

