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### IMPROVEMENTS TO CLBC'S ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

***Q1. What are the changes to CLBC's eligibility criteria?***

**A1.** On October 31, 2009, the Province deposited the regulatory change for the improved eligibility criteria. The change creates a new set of criteria that is separate from the existing criteria and focuses on a different group of adults with developmental disabilities. CLBC will use the expanded criteria to provide services and supports to an increased number of adults with developmental disabilities who have extremely high needs and are most in need of services.

The improved eligibility criteria use a comprehensive approach that assesses issues of significant limitations in adaptive functioning. For example, the assessment will look at an individual's ability to function in areas such as self-care and independence at home or in the community.

The regulatory amendment takes effect on January 31, 2010. People can begin applying for services on February 1, 2010.

***Q2. How much money is the Province investing to provide supports to the new group?***

**A2.** The Province is investing a total of \$23.2 million over the next three years – \$2.6 million for 2009/10 and \$10.3 million for each of the following two years.

***Q3. Who will qualify for CLBC services under the improved eligibility criteria?***

**A3.** Individuals with a diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder<sup>1</sup> or with a diagnosis of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder<sup>2</sup>, PLUS significant limitations in adaptive functioning<sup>3</sup> will be eligible to receive services through CLBC.

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<sup>1</sup> FASD includes Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Alcohol Related Neuropathy Disorder

<sup>2</sup> PDD includes Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS, Rett's Syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder

<sup>3</sup> Significant limitations in adaptive functioning means the individual has been assessed by a qualifying practitioner on one of three specific assessments and global scores are 3 standard deviations below the mean.

It is important to note that the improved eligibility criteria creates a distinct group of clients separate from individuals currently served by CLBC who continue to meet existing DSM-IV criteria for 'mental retardation.'

***Q4. How was the new eligibility criteria developed?***

**A4.** An implementation team worked with a group of community experts and psychologists familiar with the populations being considered for services as well as the recognized tools used for assessment to identify and assess specific needs. The implementation team was led by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development and comprised of membership from CLBC, community agencies and the ministries of Children and Family Development, Education and Health Services.

Based on this consultation, the implementation team recommended that people with a diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) PLUS prescribed significant limitations in adaptive functioning be considered eligible for services through CLBC.

***Q5. Approximately how many people will benefit from supports under the new criteria?***

**A5.** Depending on funding levels required for each client, the ministry estimates that approximately 170 people will be receiving services by the end of the fiscal year 2010/11.

***Q6. How will eligibility for CLBC services be determined?***

**A6.** CLBC will review requests from new applicants and from people who have been previously denied service. Eligible individuals must have a diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) OR Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) PLUS significant limitations in adaptive functioning.

The diagnosis of FASD must be made by a registered practitioner and a medical practitioner in accordance with current Canadian Guidelines. The diagnosis of PDD must be made by a registered practitioner, psychiatrist, or paediatrician using criteria of DSM-IV for Pervasive Development Disorder.

Assessment of social-adaptive functioning must also be completed by a registered psychologist, psychological associate or psychologist certified by the British Columbia Association of School Psychologists. The assessor should attest that the individual has significant limitations in adaptive functioning that are not primarily due to sensory deficits (e.g. impaired vision or hearing) mental health problems, environmental deprivation, physical health problems, cultural factors, ESL, or socio-economic factors.

***Q7. When will the regulatory amendment take effect?***

**A7.** The implementation of the improved eligibility criteria is complex and does take time. During the next few months, CLBC will be meeting with individuals, families and community members throughout the province to provide information and implement any necessary changes to current practice. CLBC will begin accepting applications from this new group of adults on February 1, 2010.

***Q8. Can individuals or families apply now to be placed on a waiting list for February 1<sup>st</sup>?***

**A8.** In order to ensure fairness in access, individuals and their families may apply on or after Feb. 1, 2010.

***Q9. Does CLBC have service providers in place with experience supporting this new group of individuals?***

**A9.** A number of service providers are experienced in this area; however, CLBC will also be establishing new contractual relationships with providers who have experience and are knowledgeable about this new group of adults.

***Q10. Will the improved eligibility criteria impact individuals currently receiving services from CLBC?***

**A10.** The budget for improved eligibility is supported by a separate stream of funding and thus will not affect anyone currently receiving or waiting for services from CLBC.

***Q11. Who can people contact for more information?***

**A11.** Regular updates will be available on CLBC's website at [www.communitylivingbc.ca](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca). You may also call 1-877-660-2522 for more information.