

## Personalized Supports Initiative

### Facts about Assessment

To be eligible for CLBC funded supports under the new eligibility criteria, you must be diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) which includes Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and have difficulty handling everyday things in life. This is called adaptive functioning.

Adaptive functioning means how well a person handles common demands in life and how independent they are compared to others of a similar age and background.

During an adaptive functioning assessment, you are asked questions about

**Practical skills:** how you:

- manage your home and personal care
- manage money,
- use the telephone
- get from place to place eg-do you use the bus or need a ride to places?
- stay safe and healthy,
- follow schedules and routines,
- work

**Social skills:**

- how you behave, talk to and understand others,
- how you feel about yourself
- how you solve problems
- whether you make your own mind up about things or whether other people influence you
- how you follow rules, obey the law and whether you are easy to take advantage of

**Conceptual Skills:**

- are you able to plan and organize?
- can you use abstract concepts like time, money, numbers?

If you have significant limitations in adaptive functioning, it means that: you may do some things as well as or better than others who are the same age or background (for example ability to remember numbers or play the guitar) and at the same time you have extreme difficulty coping with most other areas of life.

**Why do you need an adaptive functioning assessment?**

It will help CLBC know how much support you need compared to others who are the same age and have the same background. This helps us to be fair in deciding the amount of support CLBC can give.



*CLBC will be providing support to individuals whose life has been most severely affected by difficulty coping- people who are most at risk to themselves or to others in the community.*

The following are stories about individuals who may receive support from CLBC:

**Jake** is 28 years old and just recently diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. Jake has heart trouble and admits that he has been addicted to drugs for more than 5 years and wishes to enter rehab to quit using drugs.

**Jim** is in his early 30s and has been in and out of the youth and adult correctional systems since the age of 14. He has Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, learning disabilities and suffered a brain injury as a pre-teen, which have lead to extremely anti-social and dangerous behaviours resulting in jail.

**Susan** has autism and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She is very well liked by others. Her impulsive, self-destructive behaviour, lack of judgment and ability to be easily manipulated by others has led her into trouble with the law. She requires daily support to live in a supervised apartment.

### **Applying for Eligibility**

Most individuals have been assessed at some time in their school years, either at school or at an assessment clinic. If you have had an assessment, it will be important to get a copy of the assessment reports.

1. Applications will be accepted starting on Feb 1, 2010
2. You will need reports that say that you have either a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
3. You will also need an Adaptive Functioning report.
4. CLBC will use one of three assessment tools<sup>1</sup> to confirm eligibility. The assessment report must state which assessment tool was used
5. CLBC will review the assessment reports. If there is not enough information in a report or if a different assessment tool was used, you may be asked to have another assessment. You will be provided with names of professionals in your area who can do the assessment.
6. If you have applied to CLBC before and told you were not eligible for support, you must call CLBC after Feb. 1 if you want to be considered for support. Some of the reports may be in your file, but you may still need to get an assessment if the reports are not complete.

### **When and how can I receive support?**

CLBC is collecting information to help understand what is needed in communities across the province. After Feb 1, you may apply for support. As soon as we get to know how many people in your area need support and the kinds of support they need, we will work with community agencies and government ministries to develop those supports.

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<sup>1</sup> Acceptable Adaptive Functioning Assessment Tools are: Scales of Independent Behaviour Revised ; Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scales; Adaptive Behaviour Assessment System