



Department of Social Development and Seniors

Legislation <i>Supports for persons with Disabilities Act</i> <i>Gen. Reg. 8(1)(d)</i>	Division	Social Programs	
	Program	AccessAbility Supports	
	Policy Name	Caregiver Supports	Policy # 2.4
Effective Date: March 26, 2019		Authorized by:	
Revised Date: January 15, 2024		Deputy Minister Teresa Hennebery	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To identify and define caregiver supports that may be available to eligible applicants.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Applicant:** a person with a disability by whom or on whose behalf an application is made for support or assured income (AI).

2.2 **Associate Family (AF):** an individual or family in the community that has been approved to provide housing, care, and support to an unrelated adult with an intellectual disability.

2.3 **Activities of Daily Living (ADLs):** a series of self-care activities necessary for independent living at home or in the community. ADLs are performed daily and must be accomplished every day for an individual to thrive.

2.4 **Assured Income (AI):** a component of AccessAbility Supports (AAS) that provides monthly financial support to eligible applicants with disabilities to use towards securing basic needs.

- 2.5 **Behavioral Supports:** Focused interventions for teaching/modelling functional social skills and targeting improvement in non-normative social behaviours related to the safety of self or others.
- 2.6 **Capability Assessment:** a systemic process for determining strengths and identifying potential support needs for applicants with a disability.
- 2.7 **Caregiver:** a family member or someone who is considered to be like family who is primarily responsible for the care and support of an applicant.
- 2.8 **Caregiver Supports:** goods, services, or funds to help caregivers maintain their health and well-being and respond to the challenges of being a primary caregiver to an applicant with a disability.
- 2.9 **Housekeeping Services:** may include house cleaning, laundry, meal prep, or grocery and errand pickups. Housekeeping services do not include the cost of supplies or groceries associated with the services being provided.
- 2.10 **Natural Support:** relationships that occur in everyday life and usually include family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and acquaintances. Natural support may also include community resources.
- 2.11 **Respite:** planned, part time relief provided to families supporting applicants with disabilities.
- 2.12 **Supervision:** support for applicants over the age of 12 who cannot safely be left alone, enabling the primary care provider(s) to attend school or work.

- 2.13 **Support Needs Assessment (SNA):** a systematic process for determining an applicant's potential disability support needs and AI.
- 2.14 **Supports Coordinator:** a staff member that provides direction and case management support in delivering a range of social benefits and services to applicants eligible for AAS.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENTS

- 3.1 Caregiver Supports are intended to provide safe, individualized, and flexible relief support to primary caregivers of applicants and to reduce caregiver burnout by providing funding to eligible applicants for supports and services available to the applicant's caregiver.
- 3.2 Caregiver Supports are intended to supplement the existing natural supports that an applicant receives.
- 3.3 Caregiver supports shall not delay, prevent, replace, or to serve as an alternative to natural supports or available government or community services.
- 3.4 AFs are considered caregivers and are eligible to receive caregiver supports.
- 3.5 An applicant is eligible to receive financial benefits for caregiver supports to a maximum of \$430 per month or \$5,160 annually.
- 3.6 Applicants must have the requested funding available within their monthly funding ceiling level to be eligible for Caregiver Supports.
- 3.7 An applicant is eligible for caregiver supports if:

- the applicant requires on-going care as a result of a physical, intellectual, sensory, neurological, or mental impairment;
- the caregiver, who is 18 years of age or older, must play an essential role in the provision or coordination of the ongoing care of the applicant in the applicant's home for which the caregiver receives no remuneration; and
- the applicant meets at least one of the following equivalent criteria, each indicating the level and intensity of care required by the applicant:
 - an applicant's capability assessment identifies caregiver fatigue;
 - the level of care and/or supervision required is consistent with admission to an institution, community or long-term care facility;
 - daily physical assistance of another person for most ADLs;
 - direction and supervision during the performance of most ADLs;
 - daily supervision and is not considered safe when left alone;

3.8 Where an applicant's capability assessment does not identify caregiver fatigue, the Department will consider additional factors to determine if an applicant is eligible for caregiver supports. Additional factors may include, but are not limited to:

- the self-assessment of the caregiver;
- input from a health care practitioner and/or additional service providers; and/or
- input from the applicant's Supports Coordinator.

3.9 Caregiver supports may include:

- respite services;
- caregiver education, training, and development;
- transportation to education, training, and support groups;
- housekeeping services;

- behavioral supports; and
- supervision.

3.10 Caregiver education, training, or development does not include tuition costs for post-secondary education. Education, training, or development must be directly related to the applicant's disability and supported by the applicant's capability assessment.

4.0 REFERENCES

4.1 *Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act and General Regulations*