

The Government of British Columbia has simplified the process for youth with developmental disabilities who are applying for disability assistance. This change is for youth (17½ to 19 years old) with an **Intellectual Disability** (Intellectual Developmental Disorder). This condition was previously known as Mental Retardation in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

If you are a youth, or are the parent of a youth with an Intellectual Disability, you will now be able to submit an existing assessment by a registered psychologist or certified school psychologist, rather than completing the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) application form – a component of the full disability assistance application process.

You can start applying for disability assistance six months before your 18th birthday. This will assist the ministry with processing your application before you are 18 years old. As part of the application, some financial information will be required. You can begin the process by completing the Self Serve Assessment and Application online.

More Information

Here are some brochures and links with more information. If you would like to speak with someone about applying, please call toll-free at:

1-866-866-0800

Your Guide to Employment and Assistance:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/publicat/bcea/BCEA.htm

Your Rights and Responsibilities:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/publicat/bcea/rights.htm

Health & Other Supplements:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/publicat/pdf/health_supplements_web.pdf

WorkAble Solutions:
www.workablesolutionsbc.ca/

Information for Persons with Disabilities:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/pwd.htm

Persons with Disabilities:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/publicat/bcea/pwd.htm

17-year-Old Disability Assistance Applicants:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2005/17yr_old_PWD.htm



Applications for Persons with Disabilities Designation by Youth with a Developmental Disability



Four Steps:

1. Before You Apply

Look for an existing assessment that indicates a diagnosis of an **Intellectual Disability** (Intellectual Developmental Disorder) or Mental Retardation under the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental disorders (DSM). This will have been done by a registered psychologist or certified school psychologist. You may have a copy of this document in your own files. The school district in which your latest assessment was done or the Ministry of Children and Family Development if you received services from them in the past may also have a copy of this report.

2. Self Serve Assessment and Application

Apply online at www.iaselfserve.gov.bc.ca/HomePage.aspx. This website will guide you through the process of assessing your eligibility and applying for disability assistance. If you do not have Internet access, please call toll-free 1-866-866-0800.

If you are helping a youth complete the online application, please answer the questions from the perspective of the person you are assisting.

3. Phone Contact

Once the **Self Serve Assessment and Application** is done, a ministry worker will phone to let you know your application has been received. This worker will outline additional information needed and answer any questions.

4. Documentation

During the phone call, you will be asked for additional documents, including the psychological assessment. Gather these documents and submit them by mail or fax to the specified ministry office. Once you have done this, your application is complete.

Next Steps

After you have submitted your documents, the application will be reviewed. A letter will be mailed to you to confirm the decision. If you are eligible, the first cheque will be mailed to you as early as your 18th birthday.

