

INTERIM FAMILY SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (FSCD) POLICY: FLEXIBILITY OF FSCD SERVICES

THIS INTERIM FSCD POLICY IS IN EFFECT DURING THE STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN ALBERTA RELATED TO COVID-19 AND UNTIL RESCINDED BY THE FSCD STATUTORY DIRECTOR

CSS Lead:	PPI	Office of the Statutory Director	Approved:	April 2020
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1) INTERIM POLICY INTENT:

To support families to be able to access FSCD services and funding within their FSCD Agreement.

This policy directive provides guidance to FSCD workers to support the flexible use of FSCD services in a family's FSCD agreement and are in effect only until this policy is rescinded.

- The FSCD worker will advise the family in writing that the interim operational procedures are in effect only until rescinded.

2) INTERIM OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- Families may use the services in their FSCD agreement during the times their child would normally have been attending school or in a childcare setting.
 - The FSCD worker will document the discussion in contact notes on FSCDIS.
- Community aide support under FSCD Regulation 4(1)(h) may be provided in the family home at this time.
 - The FSCD worker will document the discussion in contact notes on FSCDIS.
- When a family informs the FSCD worker they are not able to access FSCD services and requests a change to their FSCD Agreement due to the pandemic, the FSCD worker will:
 - review all of the services in the family's agreement to identify those services the family is not able to access at this time due to the SPHE and services the family is able to access; and
 - document the discussion in a contact note on FSCDIS.

INTERIM FSCD POLICY DIRECTIVE 03-20

- There are two options to support families to have access to available services. The FSCD worker will use the approach based on the best option for the family, with consideration for providing clarity about the services that are included in the family's FSCD Agreement or when the FSCD Agreement will be expiring in the near future.
1. The FSCD worker may early close the current FSCD Agreement and open a new FSCD Agreement to include the available FSCD services based on the child and family's unique needs; and
 - advise the family that the FSCD worker will be in contact within three months of the date this policy is rescinded to identify changes that need to be made to the FSCD Agreement, based on the child and family's needs;
 - include information about the type and level of FSCD services the family needs but is not able to access due to the pandemic in a contact note on FSCDIS;
 - reassure the family that they can contact the FSCD worker at any time if their needs and circumstances change, or if services become available during the SPHE; and
 - assure the family that the services not utilized in their FSCD Agreement due to limited or no availability during the pandemic will not be factored in future agreements.
 2. The FSCD worker may amend the FSCD Agreement to early close on those services within the FSCD Agreement that the family is not able to access and include services that are available based on the child and family's unique needs; and
 - advise the family that the FSCD worker will be contact within three months of the date this policy is rescinded to identify changes that need to be made to the FSCD Agreement, based on the child and family's needs;
 - include information about the type and level of FSCD services the family needs but is not able to access due to the COVID-19 response in a contact note on FSCDIS;
 - reassure the family that they can contact the FSCD worker at any time if their needs and circumstances change, or if services become available during the SPHE; and

- assure the family that the services not utilized in their FSCD Agreement due to limited or no availability during the SPHE will not be factored in future agreements.
- In either option, the total funding amount of the FSCD Agreement, including the addendum, may not exceed the total existing agreement funding value.
- If additional FSCD services are required due to the child and family's changed needs and/or circumstances as a result of the SPHE, the FSCD worker may make a recommendation for additional services that exceeds the existing FSCD Agreement total value to the Regional Director.
 - The FSCD worker will notify the family of the decision by phone and by email or mail.
 - The FSCD worker will document all discussions and decisions in contact notes.

3. IMPACTED POLICIES

- FSCD Regulation [4(1)(h)]
- FSCD Agreement (Section 8-34)
- Amendment to the FSCD Agreement (Section 8-39)
- Agreement and Amendment Approval (Section 10-14)

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES:

- FSCD program website, alberta.ca/fscd
- Questions and Answers for FSCD Staff