

Summer Camp Inclusion Grant

Policy Manual

April 2025



Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development

Available in alternate formats:
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Video Relay Calls welcome

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Objective

To provide financial assistance toward the cost of hiring a support person to help facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities in summer camps.

Rationale

Children with disabilities often face barriers when attending summer camps. These barriers may be attitudinal, physical, financial, technological, etc. and may prevent children with disabilities from attending or fully participating in summer camp.

The Summer Camp Inclusion Grant supports the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to becoming an accessible and inclusive province.

Scope

The Summer Camp Inclusion Grant provides financial assistance toward the cost of hiring a support person to accommodate children with disabilities to attend summer camp. Scope for funding is as follows:

- Funding is only available to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- Funding is available to:
 - Individuals/families who need a support person to help their child/children with disabilities to attend summer camp; and
 - Organizations providing summer camp programs who wish to hire support workers to accommodate children with disabilities.
- Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and community organizations (e.g. churches, sports associations). Please note that for-profit businesses are **not** eligible to apply.
- The applicant must not be eligible or have received funding for a support person under another government grant or program.

Note: Funding is awarded on a first come first serve basis. Completed applications are processed in the order they are received until funding has been exhausted for the year. Due to high demand, please ensure your application is complete before submitting.

Eligible Costs

The Summer Camp Inclusion Grant provides funding toward the cost of hiring a support person to help accommodate children with disabilities to attend summer camp.

Maximum funding is up to \$1,000 for families, and up to \$5,000 for organizations.

Applications for funding under the Summer Camp Inclusion Grant **must** include written confirmation from the summer camp provider that the summer camp program has space

for the child and can accommodate the child's participation. Please see Annex A of the application form.

Please note that other camp related costs such as registration fees and travel expenses are **not** eligible for funding.

Support Person

The support person may be an inclusion worker, a caregiver, an attendant, an American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter, a designated camp staff member, a family member, or **any other person deemed appropriate** to support the child's needs and participation at summer camp.

Applicants are responsible for:

- Identifying and hiring the support person;
- determining wages (must be at least minimum wage);
- facilitating payment for the support person; and
- complying with all applicable legislative requirements, including those related to safety and accessibility.

Please note that you **must** identify a support person before your application can be processed.

Application Procedure

1. Applications:
 - can be downloaded online <https://www.gov.nl.ca/cssd/summer-camp-inclusion-grant/>;
 - can be requested by email, fax or mail; and,
 - are to be submitted by email, fax or mail to Summer Camp Inclusion Grant, Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (See **Appendix A – Contact Information**).
2. Upon receipt:
 - the application is reviewed to ensure all necessary information is included;
 - an acknowledgement email is sent to the applicant.

Review and Recommendation

Criteria

Complete applications are reviewed and processed in the order (date and time) they are received, based on the following criteria:

- meets funding objective;
- meets stated eligibility requirements; and,
- availability of funding.

Notification

Applicants who are **approved** for funding:

- are informed in writing of their approval and the amount of funding for which they qualify; and,
- are provided a letter to sign acknowledging their acceptance of the grant.

Applicants who are **not approved** for funding:

- are informed in writing

Applicants with **incomplete** applications:

- are informed in writing; and
- are able to resubmit completed applications or missing documentation.

Exceptional Circumstances

Requests for an exception to eligibility criteria:

- may be submitted in writing to Summer Camp Inclusion Grant, Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development, outlining the nature of the request and specifying the unique or exceptional circumstances for which the exception is being sought;
- are evaluated on a case-by-case basis; and,
- are dependent on availability of funding.

Applicants will receive written notice of the decision.

Payment Process

Payment will be issued directly to the applicant (individual or organization). **The applicant is responsible for paying the support person.**

All costs that exceed the approved amount of funding are the responsibility of the applicant (individual/family or organization).

Evaluation and Monitoring

Information may be gathered from applicants for review and evaluation purposes. This information allows CSSD to assess how effectively the grant is meeting its objectives and may help inform future programs and policies.

CSSD may request information including but not limited to:

- whether funding increased access to programs and services;
- whether funding increased interest and participation in summer camps;

Appendix A: Contact Information

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