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8.0 PROGRAM COMPONENTS / CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT

8.1 The DSP offers support under three program components: Child Disability Supports; Adult Disability Supports; and Employment and Vocational Supports.

8.1.1 *Child Disability Supports* - are intended to provide supports and services to families to help meet the special needs costs which relate to their child’s disability. These supports are to assist in meeting those costs determined to be above the costs of rearing a child without a disability and which relate directly to the child’s disability.

8.1.2 *Adult Disability Supports* - are supports and services designed to assist individuals with disabilities to overcome barriers that may be faced due to having a disability. These supports are intended to assist in meeting those costs determined to be above the costs of living without a disability and which related directly to the disability.

8.1.3 *Employment and Vocational Supports* - are designed to enhance the economic participation of youth (defined in Section 4.1.2 b) and working age adults with disabilities in the labour market by helping them to prepare for, attain and retain employment.

8.1.4 It is possible to receive supports under the Employment and Vocational Supports component of the program in conjunction with either the *Child Disability Supports* component or the *Adult Disability Supports* component of the program.

8.1.5 Supports available under each component are arranged into six categories of support: Respite; Community Living Supports; Community Participation Supports; Specialized Supports; Technical Aids and Assistive Devices (see *DSP Policy 8-1: Technical Aids and Assistive Devices*); and Modifications to Home/Vehicle. There are guidelines around spending under each category and there are overall ceilings relating to the DSP portion of a support plan.

8.2 Respite

8.2.1 The main function of “respite care” is to relieve the primary caregiver for a specific period of time while facilitating a positive experience for the individual with a disability. The definition of a respite care day is twenty four hours.

8.2.2 Individual situations are assessed to determine needs and the level of respite support required. The full array of family and community supports are considered in the assessment (Refer to Section 5.2). Funding allocations for respite are individualized to meet otherwise unmet needs. Limits on the number of respite hours or days provided to the primary caregiver are negotiated between the DSP and the caregiver depending on unmet needs, however, there is a ceiling to the maximum amounts of respite funding available based on the individual’s level of functioning

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8.2.3 Funds are dispersed directly to the care provider or agent providing the service. Where appropriate, funds will be dispersed directly to the individual, family, or agent allowing them to purchase the respite care services that most adequately meet their needs.

8.3 Community Living Supports

8.3.1 Community Living Supports may be provided to individuals to help them to live as independently as possible. This may include personal care services, household services or supervision.

8.3.2 Child care supports will not be supported for parent(s) and/or guardian(s) who have a child/children age 12 and under unless a disability-specific support is required. Funding for child care is not considered a disability-specific support under the DSP for children age 12 and under.

8.4 Community Participation Supports

8.4.1 There are three types of community participation supports:

- a) *Employment Supports* are supports to competitive employment or vocationally oriented training programs for people with disabilities.
- b) *Vocational Alternative Supports* are designed to support participation in settings outside of the competitive wage/labour marketplace.
- c) *Community Access and/or Integration Supports* are designed to assist with participation in the community and to develop personal competence to access community services and supports. Some examples of this would be volunteering, involvement in social, cultural, or recreational events, and disability-related transportation supports.

8.4.2 General recreational fees will not be supported. If there are recreational fees that are disability-specific, then these supports may be explored.

8.4.3 Transportation assistance will not be supported unless it is disability-specific (i.e. requires specialized transportation due to disability).

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- 8.4.4 Funding for Employment Supports may be used for the provision of goods and services in the following areas:
- a) specialized employment planning assistance;
 - b) short-term assessment, work tolerance, equipment trials;
 - c) employment preparation and training;
 - d) human supports such as readers, note takers, or interpreters to a lifetime maximum of \$6,000 per applicant;
 - e) job placement or short-term wage subsidies to facilitate sustainable employment (a wage subsidy can only be supported if there are partnerships with other funders);
 - f) job coaching and assistance with job search;
 - g) disability-specific transportation assistance relating to employment supports;
 - h) disability-specific supports needed for self-employment;
 - I) intervention where disability can affect employment retention;
 - j) modifications to place of employment, notwithstanding Section 8.4.6.
 - k) innovative employment and retention strategies;
 - l) co-operative work or study options;
 - m) training allowance, including disability related costs; and
 - n) workplace assessments and/or vocational assessments.

8.4.5 The maximum length for a training program shall be no longer than four years, although there could be variability in the time it takes for program completion.

8.4.6 Employment and Vocational funding may not be used for disability-related workplace accommodation which is the obligation of an employer or educational institution under the Federal or Provincial Human Rights legislation.

8.5 Specialized Supports

8.5.1 The main function of specialized supports is to provide customized supports which are needed to assist a person with a disability in his or her environment or to enhance access to the community.

- 8.5.2 Funds may be used for the provision of customized services and supports in the following areas:
- a) support coordination services to a maximum of \$200.00 per month; and
 - b) other supports that may be defined through the support planning process that are based on individualized needs.

8.5.3 Supports shall not duplicate nor substitute existing publically funded services.

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8.6 Modifications to Home/Vehicle

8.6.1 Various modifications may be cost-shared with individuals and/or families to help meet unmet needs. A modification is defined as a change, alteration in structure and/or an addition that is affixed to the structure. The following modifications can be covered:

- a) Home modifications to a life-time maximum of \$2,000.00 of primary residence. An applicant may be requested to provide verification of ownership of residence;
- b) Vehicle modifications to a life-time maximum of \$2,000.00 of primary vehicle. An applicant may be requested to provide verification of ownership of vehicle; and
- c) Modification to a place of employment to a maximum of \$3,000.00.

8.6.2 Items with life-time maximums must be calculated into the monthly cost of items (Refer to 10.9.2 and explained in support plan/case notes).

References

Disability Support Program Policy 8-1: Technical Aids and Assistive Devices

