

B.C. Self Advocacy Foundation

***Supporting people
with developmental
disabilities to
speak for
themselves***

**3rd Floor
30 East 6th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V5T 4P4
Phone: (604) 875-1119
Fax: (604) 875-6744**

Fact Sheet on Individualized Funding

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What is Individualized Funding?

Individualized Funding (IF) is a different way of paying for community living services and supports. Usually, the government gives money directly to service providers, and then service providers give you the services you need. But sometimes this doesn't work for people, and they end up with services that don't fit what they need.

With Individualized Funding, the government gives money to you directly, to pay for the services you need. This way, you have more choice and control over the services and supports that you get, and when you get them.

Many people like Individualized Funding because it gives them more power to decide what services are best for them. With their own money, they can choose the services that they need instead of having someone else choose for them.

Who can get Individualized Funding?

If you are getting Community Living Services under the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), you will be able to apply for Individualized Funding.

The organization that is now managing Individualized Funding and Community Living Services is **Community Living British Columbia**, or CLBC. They use the same rules about who gets Community Living Services as the Ministry has been using. They will have more information about who can get Individualized Funding closer to March 2006.

It is important to know that not every kind of service or support will be paid for by Individualized Funding. And not everyone who applies for Individualized Funding will be able to get it at first.

What is Community Living British Columbia (CLBC)?

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) is the organization that is taking over Community Living Services from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). From now on, if you have been getting supports and services from MCFD, you will get services through CLBC instead. This includes adults with a developmental disabilities and families raising a child with a developmental disability.

CLBC has a Board of Directors that includes self advocates and family members. The two self advocates are Amanda Lennard and George Fulcher.

When will Individualized Funding be available?

CLBC has said that Individualized Funding will be available after March 31, 2006. Closer to that time, they will provide more information.

How will I know when Individualized Funding is available?

As soon as Individualized Funding is available, CLBC will make an announcement. You will be able to get information on their website: www.communitylivingbc.ca, or through CLBC staff, or from your social worker.

How do I apply for Individualized Funding?

If you decide that you want to apply for Individualized Funding, you will have to write a personal plan. This personal plan will outline the services and supports that you need to live more easily in the community, and what they cost.

When your personal plan is ready, you will give it to CLBC. If you don't need any funding though, you don't need to give your plan to CLBC.

A Quality Service Analyst at CLBC will look over your plan and decide if you can receive Individualized Funding. You will get a letter telling you whether you are eligible to get funding, and how long it might take to receive it.

Who can help me apply for Individualized Funding?

Anyone you know can help you apply for Individualized Funding. CLBC also has people who can help – they are called facilitators. You can get help from a facilitator for free. You can also get help from a facilitator even if you don't need money from CLBC for your plan.

How is Individualized Funding different from what I have now?

Right now, if you are getting funding from Community Living Services, then the government is directly giving money to a service provider or a care provider for your services. This is called "block funding" because it comes in one chunk, or "block," to pay for everyone served by that service provider.

Block funding is not very flexible and doesn't give you the ability to move around the province very easily. This can be frustrating, especially if you want to move to a different city or town in BC. Sometimes it doesn't give you a lot of choice about who you get your services from, or what kind of services you get.

Individualized Funding gives money directly to you. This way, you can pay the service provider you choose for the care that you want. It also gives you the flexibility to move anywhere in the province and bring your funding with you.

The other difference is that it makes service providers and care providers more accountable to you. Why? Because if you don't like their services you can choose something different.

Do I have to use Individualized Funding?

No. Individualized Funding is an **option**. This means you choose whether you want to use it or stay with your current funding arrangement. You decide.

Can I take Individualized Funding with me if I move somewhere else in the province?

Yes, Individualized Funding can be taken with you even if you move. This means you can use it anywhere you want, as long as you stay in the province of British Columbia.

Is a facilitator the same as a social worker?

No, the social worker you have now will either become a facilitator or a quality service analyst. Both of these jobs play different roles in CLBC. They will be starting in January 2006.

Facilitators will provide individual and family support and can help if you are in a crisis. Either you can go to them, or they will come to you. Facilitators are there for information and advice, and they can help you write your personal support plan so you can get the services and supports you need. They will work all over the province and will be located in about 40 different communities.

Quality service analysts will work in nine offices located around BC, as well as in four smaller communities in the North and in the Kootenays. Their job is to decide who is eligible to receive CLBC supports and who is not. They will also keep watch over all the contracts with service providers and make decisions related to money and funding.

What if I like my social worker now? Will that person still be around to help me apply for Individualized Funding?

CLBC will try very hard to honour the relationships that people have with their social workers. But this does not necessarily mean you will definitely have the same social worker.

Some social workers may choose to move or leave their jobs. Others may become facilitators. Facilitators are the people who you will talk to directly in the new system. Some social workers may decide to become quality service analysts.

If your social worker decides to become a quality service analyst then you will have a different person as your facilitator.

Will there still be waiting lists with Individualized Funding?

Yes, unfortunately it will take some time to get rid of waiting lists.

If you become eligible to receive Individualized Funding, the amount of time you will have to wait to get your funding will depend on where you are on the waiting list.

CLBC is writing a "Wait List Policy" to help figure out how to meet the needs of people who are on waiting lists.

What kind of services and supports can I get with IF?

Primarily, Individualized Funding will be used to hire support staff. This way, you will be able to have easier access to respite care, in-home support and day programs.

Right now, CLBC is working on a policy that will include a complete list of all the services and supports that you can get with Individualized Funding. Once this is finished, it will be available to you.

Where do I get more information?

Right now if you want more information about Individualized Funding you should talk to your social worker. After January 2006, you can speak with a facilitator who will provide you with more information.

There are also some good websites you can visit to get more information:

Community Living BC

www.communitylivingbc.ca

Call Centre: 604-660-CLBC (2522)
or toll free at 1-877-660-2522.

E-mail: info@communitylivingbc.ca

BC Association for Community Living

www.bcacl.org

Individualized Funding Family Coalition

<http://www.individualizedfunding.com/>

Community Living Coalition

<http://www.communitylivingcoalition.bc.ca/Documents/IFPolicy.htm>

Individualized Funding Documents

<http://members.shaw.ca/bsalisbury/#Individualized%20Funding>



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Written by Jennifer Coté.

For additional copies, contact:

BC Self Advocacy Foundation
3rd Floor, 30 East 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5T 4P4
Phone: 604-875-1119 Fax: 604-875-6744