

Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD)



Profile of STADD (Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities)

Overview:

STADD is a comprehensive support program designed to assist young adults with developmental disabilities and their families during the transition from high school to adulthood. It bridges the gap between education and adult services by providing resources, guidance, and access to a wide network of community supports.

Mission:

To empower young adults with developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential by supporting their transition to adulthood and fostering independence, inclusion, and success in the community.

Key Features of STADD for High School Students and Their Families:

1. Transition Planning Support

- **Individualized Plans:** Tailored transition plans that align with the student's strengths, interests, and goals.
- **Collaboration with Schools:** STADD works with educators, counselors, and families to ensure smooth transitions.
- **Goal Setting:** Guidance on employment, education, and community involvement.

2. Information and Resources

- **Education Options:** Information on post-secondary education programs and vocational training.
- **Employment Pathways:** Support for finding meaningful work, including access to internships and job coaching.
- **Community Services:** Connections to local agencies providing therapy, recreation, and independent living skills training.

3. Dedicated Key Workers

- **Personalized Support:** A key worker is assigned to each family to provide one-on-one assistance.
- **Advocacy:** Helping families navigate complex systems like healthcare, housing, and social services.

4. Life Skills Development

- **Independent Living:** Training in essential life skills such as budgeting, cooking, and transportation.
- **Social Skills:** Opportunities to build friendships and participate in community events.
- **Self-Advocacy:** Teaching students how to express their needs and make informed decisions.

5. Family and Caregiver Support

- **Workshops and Seminars:** Information sessions on financial planning, guardianship, and other key topics.
- **Peer Support Groups:** Opportunities for parents to connect with other families.
- **Ongoing Assistance:** Continued support beyond high school to ensure successful transitions.



Benefits for Families:

- **Clarity and Guidance:** STADD simplifies the overwhelming transition process by acting as a central resource.
- **Holistic Approach:** Focuses on both the student's needs and family dynamics.
- **Continuity of Support:** Offers a seamless connection to adult services.

How to Access STADD:

- **Eligibility:** High school students with developmental disabilities, typically starting in their junior or senior year.
- **Referral Process:** Families can connect through their school or contact STADD directly for an initial consultation.
- **Cost:** Many services are funded or subsidized by government programs.

Contact Information:

- **Website:** www.gov.bc.ca/adultdevelopmentaldisabilityservices
- **Phone:** 1-855-356-5609 or 250-356-5609
- **Email:** STADD_Support@gov.bc.ca

STADD is here to ensure that every young adult with developmental disabilities has the opportunity to thrive in adulthood while supporting families every step of the way.

Additional Resources:

- **STADD Navigator Services Information Sheet** (attachment)
- **Youth Journey to Adulthood Roadmap** (attachment)
- [SD33 Career-Life Transitions Website](#)



Navigator Services

Would you like help planning for adulthood?

Moving into adulthood is an exciting and important time.

It can also be scary to make decisions about your future, but starting to plan early can make things go more smoothly.

Navigator supports offer service to you and your family so you have help in planning and accessing services and supports as you move to adulthood.

Start planning early

Planning for the transition to adulthood will help you make good decisions about your future, such as:

- where you are going to live
- whether you want to find a job or continue your education
- what kinds of activities you may want to try

You can start planning ahead while you are still in school.

Planning involves you, your family, and people you know who can help you achieve your goals.

How can a Navigator help you?

A Navigator can:

- » Help you think about and express your needs, hopes and dreams for the future.
- » Give you clear and reliable information about available services and supports.
- » Help you contact agencies and community services so you have the services you need.
- » Bring together a team of people to support you. The team may include your family, trusted friends, teachers, social workers, health professionals and employment counsellors.
- » Work with you and your team to develop a plan for your future goals. The team will work on the plan with you and help make sure the plan is put into action.
- » Explore opportunities to be involved in your community and develop new connections.



Navigator Services

How does the Navigator service work?

The Navigator begins by talking with you about yourself – where you are now and what you want and hope to do in the future. Together, you and your Navigator form your support team.

You are the most important member of your team. The Navigator will make sure your voice is heard and your needs and goals are expressed.

You and your family, your Navigator and members of your support team use an electronic system called Collaborate that provides a safe and secure place to store your information and transition plan.

How do I know if I am eligible for Navigator services?

If you are between the ages of 16 and 24 and are eligible for Community Living BC, you can apply for Navigator services.

A Navigator can help explain the process needed to confirm a developmental disability.

Where do I find a Navigator?

Navigator supports are currently available in 100+ communities across BC, including:

- » **North:** Prince George, Prince Rupert/Haida Gwaii, Smithers, Nechako Lakes, Fort St John and other surrounding communities.
- » **Interior:** Kamloops, Merritt, Oliver, Cranbrook, Williams Lake, Salmon Arm, and other surrounding communities.
- » **Island:** Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum, Courtenay, and other surrounding communities.
- » **Fraser:** Surrey, White Rock, Delta, Langley, Burnaby/New Westminster, Abbotsford, Coquitlam, and other surrounding communities.

The program is expanding and will include more sites in the future.

How do I get started with a Navigator?

- » Call 1-855-356-5609 or send an e-mail to STADD_Support@gov.bc.ca to request referral information
- » Talk to a school teacher or your Ministry of Children and Family Development or Delegated Aboriginal Agency social worker and ask for a referral.
- » Talk to your facilitator at Community Living BC and ask for a referral.
- » If you are receiving services from a local health authority, ask for a referral.

More about Navigator Services:

Navigators aim to make it easier for you and your family to get information and access the services you need during the transition to adulthood.

Navigators work with different partner agencies in government and the community. The Navigator acts as a coordinator, making it possible for workers from different organizations to come together, meet with you and discuss your needs and goals and work together so you have the supports you need.

With your consent, Navigators will collect, use and share your personal information using Collaborate. If you are not yet 19 years old, Navigators will also need your parent or legal guardian's permission. You are able to decide who can see your information on the system.

For more information, please call
1-855-356-5609 or 250-356-5609,
or visit [www.gov.bc.ca/
adultdevelopmentaldisabilityservices](http://www.gov.bc.ca/adultdevelopmentaldisabilityservices)



For Youth YOUR JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

14 – 15 YEARS OLD

Early planning can go a long way to prepare for the transition to adulthood. Who are the important people in your life who can help? What are your long term goals?

If you have an MCFD/DAA worker, they can help you start thinking about the future and explain upcoming transition tasks.

Your school can help you identify your goals and put together an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Find out what school supports may be available.

This is a good time to explore financial supports. Ask your bank or credit union about the Disability Tax Credit, the Gas Tax Rebate, trust funds, an RDSP and an RESP.

You can apply for CLBC-funded adult services and supports. Your MCFD/DAA worker can start this process with you. You can also contact CLBC directly.

A team can help. A STADD Navigator can help coordinate your team. Your teacher or MCFD/DAA worker can refer you to STADD, or contact STADD directly.

Your team will get to know you and your family. Your Navigator will ask your team to share information about past assessments and services.



16 YEARS OLD

Some funding and supports may end or change when you are an adult. Ask your MCFD/DAA worker for more information.

This is a good time to get a government ID and a Social Insurance Number (SIN). You will need your SIN for work and for other programs and documents.

Your school can help you determine if you need to complete a new or an updated psycho-educational assessment.

Your team will help you develop goals that support what you want and need. They will help put together a plan so you know what tasks need to be done and who can help.

Share your ideas with your team about what you would like to try, such as go to school, get a job, or do a community activity. Talk about your hopes and your concerns.

Meet with your CLBC worker to talk about CLBC services and the process they use to determine services.

Plan for graduation. Your school can help you build your independence and connections for further study, employment and life skills.

17 – 18 YEARS OLD



Discuss your health needs with your team. You may need to be referred to a family doctor, specialists, a mental health counsellor or HSCL.

Health specialists can help review and make referrals for assessments, medical supplies, medication and equipment needs. It's a good time to talk about available funding for medical needs.

Six months before you finish high school, a WorkBC Centre worker can help you start looking for a job and is a good addition to your team.

At age 17 1/2, you can apply for PWD benefits to begin at age 18. Your transition team can provide more information and support.

Discuss housing needs with your transition team. CLBC, BC Housing, other community housing programs may be able to help.

CLBC: Community Living BC

CYSN: Children and Youth with Special Needs

DAA: Delegated Aboriginal Agencies

HSCL: Health Services for Community Living

MCFD: Ministry of Children and Family Development

PGT: Public Guardian and Trustee

PWD: Persons with Disabilities

RDSP: Registered Disability Savings Plan

RESP: Registered Education Savings Plan

STADD: Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities

SDPR: Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

CLBC services can begin at 19. These services may include housing support, community inclusion, employment support, and respite care.

Talk to your transition team about options available to you for financial, legal and health matters.

Keep working with your WorkBC Centre to find work and stay employed.

Think about the important people in your life, and who can help you make decisions when you are an adult.

Your transition team may change now that you are an adult. This is a good time to add other people to your team.

Time to celebrate graduation from high school! How will you celebrate with the people who are important to you?

Your Navigator will help various agencies work together so you are supported in planning for your goals and in finding the services you need.

19 – 24 YEARS OLD



Review any changes to your health with your health care provider. They can give information about adult services and how to access these.

Do you have new ideas about what you want to do? Talk to your STADD Navigator if you want to explore going back to school, finding a job or try something new.

Your Navigator will keep working with you to determine who needs to be added to your team and adjust your plan as your needs or interests change.

19 and now an adult – WELL DONE!

Your team can continue to support you until age 24 – congratulations on completing the early steps in your journey!

