



Disability Assistance for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in B.C.

What is PWD Designation?

Overview:

The **Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation** is a provincial program in British Columbia that provides financial and support services to eligible individuals with disabilities. It helps ensure that people with disabilities have the resources they need to live independently and participate in their communities.

For high school students with disabilities preparing for adulthood, securing PWD designation can be an important step in planning for their financial and support needs.



Eligibility for PWD Designation:

To qualify for PWD status in B.C., an individual must:

- Be at least 17.5 years old at the time of application (assistance begins at 18).
- Have a severe and permanent disability that significantly restricts their daily living activities.
- Require assistance from another person, an assistive device, or an assistance animal to perform daily living activities.
- Demonstrate financial need based on income and asset limits set by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

Benefits of PWD Designation:

PWD designation provides access to a variety of supports, including:

● **Financial Assistance**

- Monthly Support Payments – Individuals may receive a basic monthly living allowance (as of 2024, up to \$1,483 per month for a single person).
- Shelter Support – Assistance with housing costs, including rental subsidies.

● **Health & Medical Benefits**

- Medical Services Plan (MSP) & Extended Health – Coverage for medical care, including some prescription medications, dental, optical, and medical supplies.
- Assistive Devices & Equipment – Support for mobility aids, hearing aids, and other medical equipment.
- Disability Bus Pass Program – Discounted transit pass for eligible recipients.



- **Employment & Education Supports**

- WorkBC Employment Services – Job coaching, training, and support to help individuals with disabilities enter the workforce.
- BC Access Grant & Other Student Supports – Assistance with post-secondary education costs, including tuition grants and adaptive learning technology.

- **Additional Benefits**

- BC Housing Rental Assistance – Access to subsidized housing programs.
- Annual Supplementary Benefits – Additional funds for essential living costs.
- Community Living BC (CLBC) Supports – For individuals with developmental disabilities, CLBC offers additional services for housing, employment, and community integration.

How to Apply for PWD Designation:

Step 1: Gather Necessary Documentation

- A completed **PWD Application Form**, which can be obtained from a local Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction office or online.
- A **medical report** from a physician or nurse practitioner detailing the disability.
- A **Daily Living Activities Report** completed by a healthcare professional.

Step 2: Submit the Application

- Applications can be submitted in person, by mail, or online through **My Self Serve (MySS)**, the government's online portal for income and disability assistance.

Step 3: Ministry Review and Decision

- The Ministry reviews applications and may request additional information.
- If approved, the individual will receive a confirmation letter and can begin receiving benefits.

Simplified Application Process for PWD (Persons with Disabilities)

If you are already receiving benefits from certain programs, you may be eligible for a simplified PWD application process. This means you will not need to complete the full application or provide a new diagnosis.

You may be eligible if you are receiving benefits from one of the following programs:

- Community Living BC
- Ministry of Children and Family Development – At Home Program
- BC Pharmacare – Palliative Care Benefits
- Canada Pension Plan – Disability Benefits



For Individuals with an Intellectual Disability:

You may also qualify for a simplified PWD application process if you:

- Are between the ages of 17.5-19
- Have a confirmed intellectual disability

In this case, you can submit an existing psychological assessment and diagnosis instead of completing the full PWD application.

Planning for PWD While Still in High School:

- **Start the application at age 17.5** to ensure support is available when the student turns 18.
- **Attend community transitions fair APRIL 9, 2025** to attend a presentation by *Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction*.
- **Connect with school transition coordinators** who can help navigate applications for PWD and related supports.
- **Explore additional services** such as CLBC, WorkBC, and post-secondary disability resources to create a comprehensive transition plan.

Contact Information:

- **Local Service BC office**
45540 Yale Rd.
Chilliwack, BC V2P 2M9
- **Phone:** 1-866-866-0800
- **Online Access:** <https://myselfserve.gov.bc.ca/>

Additional Resources:

- **Chilliwack Transition & Resource Fair** (attachment)
- [*PWD Information & Application*](#)
- [*Community Living BC \(CLBC\)*](#)
- [*WorkBC Employment Services*](#)
- [*Disability Advocacy Support – Disability Alliance BC*](#)
- [*SD33 Career-Life Transitions Website*](#)



APRIL 9



BUILDING **CONNECTIONS**

Free Transition & Resource Fair

For youth & young adults living with a disability

TIME: 4 - 6:30PM

**LOCATION: 45190 Caen Ave,
Building A Main Atrium
Chilliwack UFV Campus**

Training Programs
Community Resources
PWD Benefits
Employment Services
Independent Living



**REGISTER
NOW**



Registration encouraged but not required