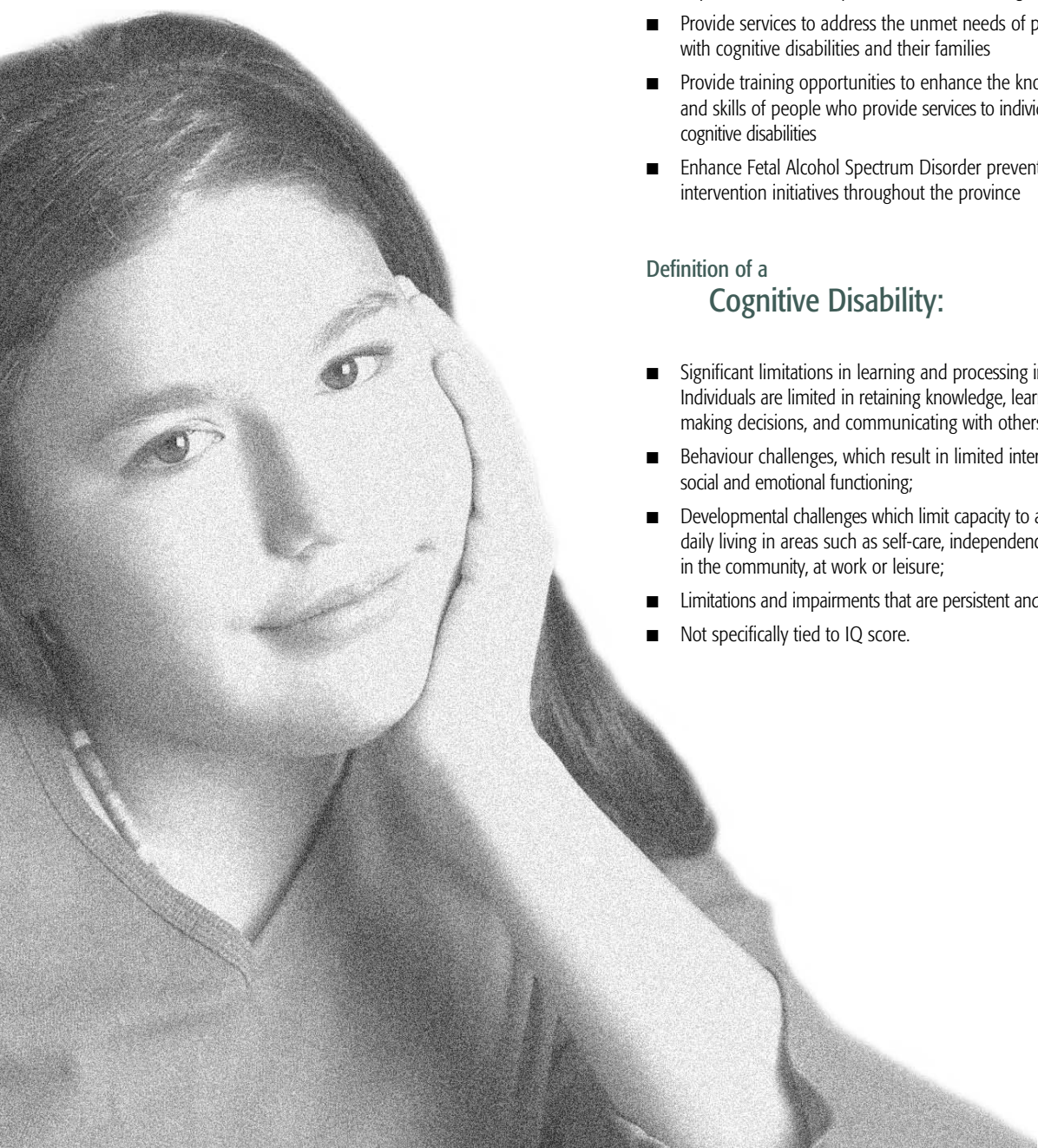


The Saskatchewan Cognitive Disabilities Strategy





The Cognitive Disabilities Strategy is meant to:

- Improve the availability of assessment and diagnosis services
- Provide services to address the unmet needs of people with cognitive disabilities and their families
- Provide training opportunities to enhance the knowledge and skills of people who provide services to individuals with cognitive disabilities
- Enhance Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention and intervention initiatives throughout the province

Definition of a Cognitive Disability:

- Significant limitations in learning and processing information. Individuals are limited in retaining knowledge, learning skills, making decisions, and communicating with others;
- Behaviour challenges, which result in limited interpersonal, social and emotional functioning;
- Developmental challenges which limit capacity to adapt to daily living in areas such as self-care, independence at home, in the community, at work or leisure;
- Limitations and impairments that are persistent and long-term;
- Not specifically tied to IQ score.

Who should apply for help from the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy?

- Individuals may have a diagnosis of FASD, Autism, or Acquired Brain Injury, but a diagnosis is not required to be eligible for assistance;
- Individuals with a cognitive disability and/or care providers who are experiencing a great deal of stress in daily living;
- Individuals who are at risk of losing, or have lost community contact and/or program placement because of behavioural issues;
- Individuals with unmet needs which require supports that do not fall within the scope of any other service providers (e.g. Community Resources, Mental Health).

What does this Strategy mean for families and individuals living with cognitive disabilities?

- You may be eligible for funding to access services that you do not currently receive
- For families, it may mean respite care or additional therapy services for your child
- For adults, it may mean having someone to help with activities of daily living, such as keeping appointments, taking medications or grocery shopping

How can an individual get help from the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy?

There are three ways to apply for help:

1. An individual or a family member can fill out the application form.
2. An individual or a family member can ask a worker they are presently working with to help them complete the form.
3. If an individual or a family does not have anyone to help them with the form and are unable to complete the form themselves, the Cognitive Disabilities Consultant can provide assistance.

How does the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy work?

When the Intake Committee approves an individual's application, they also recommend a team coordinator. The team coordinator organizes and works with a support team to explore options, create and implement support plans around the individual's needs and desired outcomes. A plan is developed with the client to meet the unmet needs of the individual. The Cognitive Disabilities Consultant may be part of the team if required.

What does the Cognitive Disabilities Consultant do?

The Consultant works with the support team to provide suggestions and training that will support an individual to achieve his or her goals. The Consultant provides individual and group training to enhance the knowledge and skills of service providers, caseworkers, and families concerning cognitive disabilities, developmental challenges and behavioural support strategies.

How can funds be accessed from the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy?

First, the Intake Committee must approve your application for support and be working with your Support Team. The Support Team determines if the unmet needs can be addressed through an existing service. When this is impossible, the team develops a support plan that includes the use of the Cognitive Disability Flexible Funding Benefit and forwards this to the Intake Committee. The Intake Committee then makes the recommendation to the provincial Community Resources office. In order to apply for this benefit, an individual (or family member) must complete the Daily Living Skills Assessment Checklist and provide information about his/her income. This information will be used to determine the individual's maximum monthly benefit. This process may take up to three months.

The Cognitive Disability Flexible Funding Benefit can be issued to the individual or to an approved payee, such as a family member or service provider. All support plans that include access to the benefit will be reviewed on a regular basis, and additional information may be required if there has been a change in circumstance.

Regional Contacts

Please contact the regional representative in your area to enquire about application information.

Athabasca Health Authority	
Javier Hilario	439-2200
Keewatin Yatthe	
Liz Durocher	833-5520
Mamawetan Churchill River	
Dolores Miller	425-6671
Prairie North	
Suanne Carter.....	821-0165
Prince Albert Parkland	
Lisa Chambers.....	765-6578
Kelsey Trail	
Rick Peters	752-8767
Heartland	
April Deacon.....	778-8609
Saskatoon	
Cathy Deneiko.....	955-3344
Wanetta Laird	955-3344
Sunrise	
Michelle Houston.....	786-1384
Cypress	
April Deacon.....	778-8609
Five Hills	
Don Mitchell.....	694-0203
Regina Qu'Appelle	
Ryan Labatt.....	751-5659
Denise Swallow.....	751-2480
Sun Country	
Michelle Houston.....	786-1384

Diagnosis and Assessment Services

Individuals up to the age of 24 years may receive service at the provincial child and youth diagnosis and assessment team closest to their area of residence. In Saskatoon individuals over the age of 18 years are encouraged to contact the adult clinic listed below.

Prince Albert Parkland Child and Youth Development Clinic.....765-6589

Saskatoon Alvin Buckwold Child Development Program.....655-1070

(includes traveling clinics to selected northern locations)

Regina Qu'Appelle Child and Youth Services.....766-6700

(includes traveling clinics to the four southern health regions)

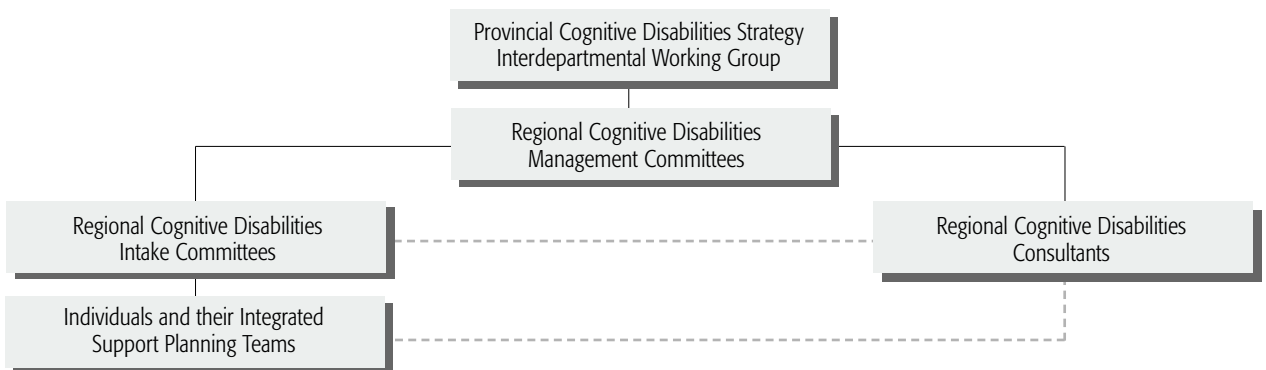
Although individuals are encouraged to access assessment services from the nearest available team, they may access assessment services from the team of their choice.

Individuals over the age of 18 years may access the following adult assessment and diagnosis service.

Saskatoon Genetics/Teratology Clinic, Royal University Hospital.....966-8112

FASD diagnostic service for adults is available on the afternoon of the first Wednesday of the month. A physician's referral is required to be seen at this clinic.

Saskatchewan's Cognitive Disabilities Strategy aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of families, service providers and the community in order to support individuals with cognitive disabilities experiencing significant behavioural and developmental challenges



Provincial Cognitive Disabilities Strategy
Interdepartmental Working Group
Ginny Lane, Chairperson

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