

British Columbia's Post Adoption Assistance Program provides financial support for children placed through the ministry who are designated as having special needs. The program provides two methods of financial support - a basic maintenance payment and coverage for specific services such as respite, therapy or equipment. Your adoption worker will be able to provide you with information relevant to your family's unique circumstances.

## Eligibility

Eligibility for the PAA program is established through an asset test. Families with gross assets that do not exceed \$300,000 - excluding the primary residence and vehicle as well as pensions and RRSPs - may be eligible for post adoption assistance. The child they are adopting must also be designated for the program by a ministry social worker.

## Available Benefits

**Maintenance Payments:** Eligible adoptive families may receive a monthly maintenance payment of up to \$701.55 for a child under 12 years of age and up to \$805.68 for children over the age of 12 if:

- They have established significant emotional ties with the child, such as an extended family member or foster child;
- The child is part of a sibling group; or
- The child has cultural ties that require a culturally compatible placement

A family with a net income of less than \$80,000 a year is eligible to receive the full basic maintenance payment. If your net income is over \$80,000 a year, benefits will decrease gradually based on the number of dependent children in the family. Your net income is based on line 236 of your income tax return(s). An income threshold chart is available at [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/PAA](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/PAA) that can help you determine your eligibility.

**Specific Services:** All eligible families may receive coverage for specific services that are not covered by the parents' extended medical plans and include:

- Counselling
- Assessments
- Special Needs Child Care
- Speech/Physio/Occupational Therapy
- Corrective Dental & Orthodontics
- Respite
- Tutoring
- Homemakers

**A full schedule of services and coverage rates is available on our website at:  
[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/PAA](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/PAA)**