

Trainings	pg 1
Rate Increase Starting April 1	pg 1
Rent Supplement for Youth 19-27	pg 2



A bimonthly brief of current support and training

THE Support Report

RATE INCREASE BEGINNING APRIL 1

"After many (many) years of advocacy the Ministry of Children and Family Development budget includes a significant lift to the rates for foster caregivers and kinship care, effective April 1, 2023.

Rate Increases for Foster Caregivers, Kinship and Out of Care Caregivers

Effective April 1, 2023, the maintenance rates for foster, kinship and out of care caregivers will see an up to 47% increase to their maintenance rates:

Monthly Maintenance Rates	Current Rate	As of April 1, 2023
Children aged 0-11	\$1024.64	\$1465.86
Children aged 12-19	\$1124.19	\$1655.91

Let's Connect >>>

VIRTUAL

Caregiver Drop-Ins

Wednesday, March 15

7:00pm – 8:00pm (PST)

ZOOM ID: 873 8896 8659

(3rd Wednesday of the Month)

Monday, April 3

1:00pm – 2:00pm (PST)

ZOOM ID: 858 3771 6954

(1st Monday of the Month)

"IN PERSON"

East Kootenay Caregiver Drop-In

Wed, Mar 15 10:00am (MST)

at 1824 Hunter Rd. Cranbrook

EK Drop-ins are the 1st & 3rd Weds of the month.

TRAININGS

KERI ISHAM (Power Up Education)

Sexual Health Education For

Children/Youth with Support Needs K - 7

Thursday, April 6, 2023

9:30am - 11:30 am (PST)

1. What is sexuality?
2. Why teach sexual health education early?
3. Why teach sexual health education to children with special needs?
4. Why children with special needs are at greater risk of sexual abuse.
5. Other risk factors.
6. What children need to know and when.

Can't make the date? No worries!! Register and you will receive the limited time presentation replay link after the training. Please register in advance via the following link by no later than Tuesday, April 4:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZypduusrj4qE9wO0uLYTdy5xgT7WNMCZBUw>

For more info, please see attached poster or contact Marna Forsyth

Cell: (250) 609-2017 or email: mforsyth@interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca

Brain-Building Through Play: Activities for Infants, Toddlers and Children

PDF Tools from the Centre on the Developing Child at Harvard University

"From infancy on, play is an important part of a child's life. For babies and toddlers, simple, playful interactions with adults help develop sturdy brain architecture, the foundations of lifelong health, and the building blocks of resilience. Through games and playful activities, children can practice and strengthen important executive function skills that will help them throughout their lives, including learning to focus their attention, strengthening their working memory, and developing basic self-control. The following handout series, developed with support from the LEGO Foundation, provides suggestions for games and play-based activities based on a child's age. The activities for younger children are designed for adults to engage in with children. Activities for later ages allow the adults to step back, enabling children's independence to blossom as they transition to playing more often with peers."

To read more and to download brain-building play ideas for kids of all ages, visit: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/brainbuildingthroughplay>

MCFD RENT SUPPLEMENT NOW OPEN

DEADLINE: MARCH 20, 2023

HISTORIC HELP FOR YOUTH FROM CARE WILL SUPPORT STRONG TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD.

Young people in government care will have access to new and increased supports until the age of 27. Budget 2023 investments will better support them as they transition to adulthood.

MCFD RENT SUPPLEMENT

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is working to improve housing supports for young adults. We want youth transitioning to adulthood to have the supports, tools and relationship-based networks they need to thrive.

Learn more about the new rent supplement program where eligible young adults (aged 19-27) may apply for a \$600-a-month rent supplement for up to 2 years.

RENT SUPPLEMENT APPLICATION

The MCFD Rent Supplement applications are now open! Eligible young adults (ages 19-27) may apply for a \$600-a-month rent supplement for up to 2 years.

Make sure you get your applications in by the deadline of March 20, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. If you need support with your application, see the Housing Supports FAQ and/or email MCFRentSupplements@gov.bc.ca

RENT SUPPLEMENT ELIGIBILITY

Young adults can apply for the Rent Supplement program if they meet at least ONE of the following criteria:

- ✓ Are eligible for the Agreements with Young Adults program
- ✓ Spent 24 cumulative months in any care status between ages 12 to 19
- ✓ Were adopted/had their custody permanently transferred to someone other than their parent between ages 12 to 19

Eligible young adults will need to be renting in the private rental market in B.C.
50% of the rent supplements will be available to Indigenous young adults.

To learn more about the Rent Supplement Program and related supports visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/youth-and-family-services/youth-transitions/rent-supplement-program>

Check out their FAQ document by visiting:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/youth_faqs.pdf

Need support? Need resources? ➡ Connect with your Network Facilitator

Connect with the team >>>

SUPPORT TO FAMILY CARE NETWORK PROGRAM

Program Coordinator: Kari Bepple

kbepple@interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca

Cell: (250) 819-1919

Office: (236) 421-0031

Toll Free: 1-877-376-3660

Network Facilitators:

Renata Bonthoux (250) 319-6557

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Marna Forsyth (250) 609-2017

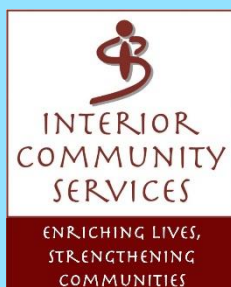
mforsyth@interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca

Gerri Burleigh (250) 426-6013

gburleigh@interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca

Jane Wesko (250) 608-7674

jwesko@arcprograms.com



Youth Transitions Implementation

Rent Supplements and More!

RENT SUPPLEMENT

Are you a young adult from care between the ages of 19-26 paying rent in B.C.?

Then you might be able to access a new rent supplement of \$600 per month for two years (or the month before your 27th birthday, whichever comes first).

You might be eligible if you...

are eligible for the Agreements with Young Adults program

Or

spent 24 cumulative months in any care status between 12 - 19

Or

were adopted/had custody permanently transferred to someone other than your parent between 12 - 19

What You Will Need

- ✓ Proof of Rental Address
- ✓ Social Insurance Number
- ✓ Approximate Income
- ✓ Contact Information

Visit www.gov.bc.ca/youthtransition to learn more and apply

EARNINGS EXEMPTION

Your employment income, including self-employment and wage replacement programs, such as EI and WCB, are now exempt when determining the funding you will receive through AYA.

AYA LIFE-SKILLS

Effective immediately, you are able to access life-skills programs from all across the province and online. You are no longer limited to the ministry approved program list.



Ministry of Children and Family Development

TO LEARN MORE VISIT www.gov.bc.ca/youthtransitions

Need help accessing a resource? Connect with a worker, friend or family member.

Need resources or information?

Check out our website!

Are you wanting more information about upcoming training in your area, helpful resources or information about our program? Find all this and much more at our website:

www.icsfp.info/outofcareproviders



Find us on Facebook!

Connect with us on our

'ICS Support To Family Care Network' Facebook page and our agency's 'Interior Community Services' Facebook page.

"Being able to feel safe with other people is probably the single most important aspect of mental health; safe connections are fundamental to meaningful and satisfying lives." Bessel van der Kolk