

Personalized Supports Initiative (PSI)

Facts about Adaptive Functioning Assessments

To be eligible for CLBC funded supports under the new eligibility criteria, you must be diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and have difficulty handling everyday things in life. This is called adaptive functioning.

Adaptive functioning means how well a person handles common demands in life and how independent they are compared to others of a similar age and background.

During an adaptive functioning assessment, you are asked questions about

Practical skills: how you:

- manage your home and personal care
- manage money
- use the telephone
- get from place to place (for example, do you use the bus or need a ride to places?)
- stay safe and healthy
- follow schedules and routines
- work

Social skills:

- how you behave, talk to and understand others
- how you feel about yourself
- how you solve problems
- whether you make your own mind up about things or whether other people influence you
- how you follow rules, obey the law and whether you are easy to take advantage of

Conceptual Skills:

- are you able to plan and organize?
- can you use abstract concepts like time, money, numbers?

If you have significant limitations in adaptive functioning, it means that: you may do some things as well as or better than others who are the same age or background (for example ability to remember numbers or play the guitar), and at the same time you have extreme difficulty coping with most other areas of your life.

Why do you need an adaptive functioning assessment?

It will help CLBC know how much support you need compared to others who are the same age and have the same background as you. This helps us to be fair in deciding the amount of support CLBC can give.

Applying for Eligibility

Most individuals have been assessed at some time in their school years, either at school or at an assessment clinic. If you have had an assessment, it will be important to get a copy of the assessment reports.

1. You will need reports that say that you have either an Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD) or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
2. You will also need an Adaptive Functioning report.
3. CLBC will use one of three assessment tools¹ to confirm eligibility. The assessment report must state which assessment tool was used
4. CLBC will review the assessment reports. If there is not enough information in a report, you may be asked to have another assessment. You will be provided with names of professionals in your area who can do the assessment.

¹ Acceptable Adaptive Functioning Assessment Tools are: Scales of Independent Behaviour Revised ; Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scales; Adaptive Behaviour Assessment System