

# Youth in Transition

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) provides supports and services to eligible adults\* and their families. CLBC has a youth transition support policy that describes CLBC's role for assisting youth and their families before a youth turns 19. This information sheet answers some common questions about CLBC's role for supporting youth transitions.

## What is Transition?

For youth with special needs and their families, transition refers to the move from childhood to adult life. To create a smooth transition from childhood to adult life, families need to begin transition planning long before a youth turns 19. Supporting a smooth transition for youth and their families is an important priority for CLBC.

## What is Transition Planning?

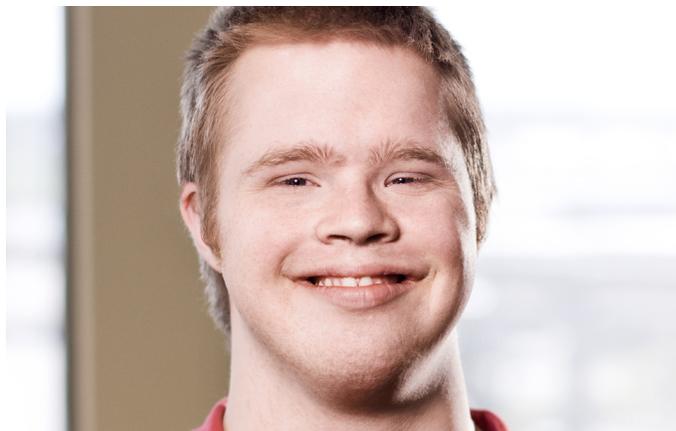
Transition planning is the process of preparing for the move from one phase of life to another. Transition planning includes accessing informal community supports and developing support networks. Transition planning may include applying for CLBC adult services.

## What are CLBC adult services?

CLBC provides a range of community living supports and services to eligible adults to assist them to live as fully and independently as possible in the community. These can include respite, community inclusion, employment support and residential support. CLBC provides flexible supports that promote choice and independence and are intended to address individuals' unique needs and goals.

## When should transition planning start with CLBC?

Transition planning with CLBC should begin after a youth's 16th birthday. It is important to start this process early because it may take time to complete the required steps.



## What is involved in the transition process with CLBC?

The transition process for CLBC has 3 steps:

### Step 1 After the youth's 16th birthday

Show that your family member is eligible for CLBC adult services.

### Step 2 After the youth's 17th birthday

Learn about CLBC supports, services and processes. Tell CLBC about your family member and their support needs.

### Step 3 After the youth's 18th birthday

Develop a plan for adult life. Determine if a CLBC Individual Support Plan is required for CLBC funded services.



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\* A CLBC eligible adult is a person who is 19 years of age or older and who meets the eligibility criteria described in the Eligibility for CLBC Supports and Services Policy.

## What needs to be done for the 3 steps in the transition process with CLBC?

### What is involved in Step 1: Showing that your family member is eligible for CLBC adult services?

**Step 1** should begin after a youth's 16th birthday. You will need to gather and submit specific documents to CLBC, such as professional assessments that show that the youth meets CLBC eligibility criteria. [CLBC's Eligibility Information for Families sheet](#) is a useful resource that answers some common questions about CLBC's eligibility policy. You can contact a CLBC facilitator for information about eligibility. For youth who are already accessing Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) support, your first step is to contact your MCFD worker for assistance with transition.

### What is involved in Step 2: Learn about CLBC and tell CLBC about your family member and their support needs?

**Step 2** should begin after a youth's 17th birthday. A facilitator will call you to arrange a meeting, if **Step 1** has been completed. You and your family member will meet with a facilitator and learn about CLBC supports, services and processes. CLBC calls this meeting an orientation to CLBC. You will also need to provide information to the CLBC facilitator about the family member's circumstances and the kind of support they may need when they are an adult. The facilitator will record this information and submit a Request for Services for CLBC funded services for in the future (for when the youth is an adult). Please see the [Information for Families sheet on Requests for Service](#).

### What is involved in Step 3: Develop a plan for adult life and determine if a CLBC Individual Support Plan is required for CLBC funded services.

**Step 3** should begin after a youth's 18th birthday. You and your family member will meet with a facilitator who can provide information about planning and explain when an Individual Support Plan is required for CLBC funded services. A plan can be developed by a youth with the assistance of their family, or with help of a support network, friend of trusted advisor, or they may be developed with the support of a CLBC facilitator. Please see the [Information for Families on Planning](#).

### When can my son or daughter start to receive CLBC funded community living supports?

To receive CLBC services, your family member must be 19 years of age or older but they may apply for eligibility after their 16th birthday. CLBC tries to make sure that everyone who is eligible gets access to supports or funded services in a consistent and fair way. However, requests for service may exceed available funding and it may take some time before your family members is able to access services. Even if your son or daughter has accessed children's special needs services and is confirmed eligible for adult community living services, CLBC may not be able to provide support as soon as he or she turns 19. It could take time for services to become available. Advance planning and accessing a range of other community supports and resources is important.

### What else is involved in transition planning?

Transition planning includes exploring a broad range of opportunities and support and services available to adults, in addition to applying for CLBC services. CLBC works in collaboration with youth, their families and other government organizations and ministries to support youth transitions. [The Cross Ministry Transition Planning Protocol for Youth with Special Needs](#) describes how youth and their families and the nine government organizations work together.

The protocol outlines other components of a transition planning process and identifies the [Roles and Tasks for Transition Planning Team Members](#).

### What if my family member is already 16, 17 or 18 and we haven't started the CLBC steps yet?

The ages provided above are suggested guidelines but sometimes people do not start the process till later. Once you begin the process, a CLBC facilitator can provide you with information about the next steps for your situation. CLBC would like to confirm eligibility for youth transitioning to adulthood as soon after their 16th birthday as possible, so begin the steps as soon as you can.

## Contacting CLBC

To find the contact information for your local CLBC office, please visit [www.communitylivingbc.ca](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca) and go to Your Community > Local CLBC Offices.

You can also contact CLBC toll free at 1-877-660-2522.