

BACKGROUNDER
How CLBC makes funding decisions
February 19, 2018

CLBC welcomes between 800-1,000 new eligible individuals each year. The number of people eligible for services has now grown from 12,735 in March 2010 to more than 20,000 today. Thanks to regular increases in funding, CLBC has been able to fund new respite, employment, community inclusion and residential services each year. However, because more people request new or increased services each year, CLBC must have a careful process to make fair decisions within available funding.

This backgrounder explains how CLBC gets its yearly budget, makes funding decisions and approves people's funded-service requests. CLBC always funds as many service requests as possible, but is not permitted to spend more than the funding it has.

Estimating annual service needs

CLBC works with the government each year to identify funding required to continue services to current eligible individuals and meet the service needs of newly eligible individuals. For each area of the province CLBC considers: the number of CLBC-eligible youth in foster care turning 19 in the year; the overall number CLBC-eligible youth turning 19; the expected number of individuals over 19 that will be registering, and the overall ongoing caseload.

CLBC receives many different requests from people in different situations. Some people have graduated from high school and are looking for community inclusion programs, employment, or to move out on their own. Some have no family or friends in their lives. Some come to CLBC for help later in life, when they are experiencing higher needs related to aging.

Budget planning process

1. Every year, CLBC staff contact families who have requests for service that have not yet been approved to update their information. In some cases a family's needs may have become more urgent, and in others a previously requested service may no longer be needed.
2. Taking into account new and updated requests for service, staff identify high priority service needs by looking at an individual's level of need and urgency of request.
3. Once CLBC learns of its overall approved budget for the year, staff in each region develop a plan to ensure priority needs are met, and as many requests for services as possible receive funding.
4. People with higher needs get more service. Those with the most urgent requests get service first. People in emergency situations – for example with no place to live – get the highest priority.

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When can families expect to hear about funding decisions?

Requests for support are made throughout the year, and funding decisions are made through our assessment processes that identify disability related needs and urgency for the individual and family. For youth entering into CLBC services, initial planning may begin as early as age 16. However, CLBC-funded services can only begin after the age of 19. CLBC must wait until its budget is approved each year, typically in February, to know available funding. Once annual funding is confirmed, CLBC staff work as quickly as possible to finalize the plan for services it is able to fund. Depending on timing of budget approvals each year, CLBC tries to confirm funding decisions for transitioning youth who have requested services by Summer or Fall.

Regular budget re-assessment

Budgets are regularly reviewed through the year to fund more services if possible. In some cases, previously committed funding becomes available to fund other services. This may occur, for example, if someone moves out of the province or no longer needs a service. In other situations, CLBC may be required to support individuals with unexpected and very high support needs.

What if a service is not funded immediately?

Almost all individuals receive some form of funded services within six months of requesting support– for example, funding for respite. Depending on the level of priority needs and available funding, some requests cannot be funded right away. If a service is not funded immediately, a CLBC facilitator can often help people access supports and opportunities that already exist in the community. If a family's situation changes, and if needs become more urgent, an individual or family can request a review.