Support for Families During COVID-19

Questions and Answers

Emergency funding has been provided recently to support individuals living in group homes, home sharing or supported living. How is CLBC working to support families who take care of individuals at home and who are experiencing negative impacts from COVID-19?

• CLBC cares about the impact of COVID-19 on individuals and families. Since early March we have been providing updates, holding teleconferences and sharing resources.
• Our offices remain open and families who need help should reach out to their local CLBC contact. We are continuing to respond to families’ changing circumstances and needs within existing services.
• Supporting agencies in this way will make it easier for them to continue supporting individuals that live with their family.

How is CLBC managing changes to day programs and their impact on families?

• For the safety of individuals and their staff many day service programs (CI programs, skill development, employment) may still be operating but not providing services in the usual fashion.
• CLBC expects that where families have taken family members home or have been impacted by the change in service, the programs are connecting to families and providing supports in whatever way that they can. As this support will be individualized the provider won’t always be able to provide the same number of hours of support and this will be organized on a person by person basis.
• CLBC has heard that service providers are implementing innovative ways of supporting individuals and families. Some of these innovations may prove to be beneficial and last beyond the current pandemic.

Is extra support available if families take their family member out of residential supports and bring them home?

• This is something a family should discuss with the support agency before bringing the individual home.
• CLBC has indicated that while individuals are not in a staffed residential or home sharing program, the individual is not expected to pay their usual room and board amounts of $716 if under 65 and receiving PWD. As a result, individuals will be able to keep all of their monthly PWD assistance as well as the additional $300/month COVID-19 crisis supplement provided by SDPR for the next three months, which can help contribute to household expenses.

So what should families do if they are encountering difficulty supporting their loved ones at home?

• Where families are feeling challenged by this situation, we encourage the following:
  o Reach out to the service provider(s) that they are connected to and explore what supports are available.
  o Contact their CLBC office to discuss their situation and what supports are available.
  o This is especially important if there are any significant changes in circumstances for the individual or the family.