



Intensive family support guidelines



making a difference

The Intensive Family Support Funding provides a wide range of flexible supports to families/carers who provide support to a household member with a disability. The primary aim of the Intensive Family Support is to build and enhance family well-being and strengthen family, carer and community relationships.

As a result of these flexible measures, individuals and their families/carers should be enabled to achieve the following outcomes:

- Existing and new relationships, community connections and support networks are supported, developed and enhanced.
- Individual and family/carer capacity are strengthened to promote and maintain a positive home environment.
- Independence of a person with a disability is facilitated, maintained and enhanced.
- Individuals, families and/or carers engage in community activities that are appropriate for the life course of the person with a disability, reflecting their cultural identity.
- Access to and inclusion in the community is increased.

The Intensive Family Support framework is underpinned by the following principles:

- IFS upholds the principles and objectives as outlined in the Western Australian Disability Services Act (1993) and the National Disability Services Standards.
- IFS aims to supplement and complement the natural supports and other available resources provided by the individual, their family and/or carer.
- IFS recognises the additional costs of living with a disability, whilst not subsuming the ordinary daily living costs borne by all families.
- IFS provides a diverse range of flexible household supports that are individually tailored to meet the needs of a person with a disability and their family/carer.
- IFS supports household members to provide support to the individual with a disability through recurrent funding strategies, which may incorporate initial one-off strategies as part of an integrated support strategy.
- IFS provides supports that are reflective of a typical life course and recognise the strengths, aspirations, needs, preferences, values and cultural identity of the person with a disability.
- IFS provides support that involves individuals and their significant others in the planning, determining and designing of their support needs.
- IFS provides support to enable a person with a disability to participate in community life in ways that are valued by the person, their family/carer and the community.
- IFS should not displace the resources of other agencies that would reasonably be accessible to people with disabilities.

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Program Eligibility	<p>Families living with a household member with a disability may be able to access IFS in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the disability impacts upon the functioning of the household; and • the household member with a disability meets the Commission's eligibility criteria (Appendix 1).
Access Criteria	<p>Access to the IFS is through the Combined Application Process.</p> <p>Families who have needs that cannot be met through other informal or formal supports may be able to access the IFS.</p> <p>Each applicant has access to funding on the basis of relative need and available resources (see Standard 1 – Service Access, Disability Services Standards and Principles, from the Disability Services Act 1993).</p> <p>Applications for funding will be assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • against the specific criteria established as part of the Combined Application Process method of funding allocation (see the separate policy on the Combined Application Process); and • according to the principle of relative need. <p>Funds will be allocated within the available resources.</p> <p>Note: Where the person with a disability has received sufficient financial compensation from other sources to support their needs, a determination may be made by the Commission that they are not eligible for funding.</p>
Exit Criteria	<p>IFS is discontinued in the following situations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The household member with a disability receives Accommodation Support Funding. 2. The household member with a disability receives funding through the Community Living Program.* 3. The household member with a disability relocates to a nursing home or a hospice. 4. Funding is no longer required due to changes in the families'/household circumstances. 5. The family no longer chooses to use IFS. 6. The family member with a disability has died.

*As per the Community Living Guidelines (CLP), people who receive funding through both IFS and CLP can combine funding to a maximum total value of \$20,000.

<p>What is funded?</p>	<p>Family Support Packages will include a range of diverse and flexible supports, in order to achieve the outcomes of the program, and may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assistance to develop and maintain new relationships, community connections and support networks; • assistance to strengthen family/carer capacity to promote a positive home environment; • assistance to enhance the well-being of the person with a disability living within the home environment; • supports to engage and build positive relations between all household members including primary carers, family members, siblings and other household members (for example home help, holiday supports, care, family support); • assistance with personal care; and • sibling support. <p>Individualised Funding Plans are required to meet all of the principles of the IFS Funding Guidelines outlined on page one (1).</p>
<p>What is not funded?</p>	<p>IFS recognises the additional costs of living with a disability, whilst not subsuming the ordinary daily living costs borne by all families.</p> <p>Additionally IFS will not fund the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pharmaceuticals and care provided by medical professionals; • housing, land and vehicle purchases; • incontinence products; and • illegal activities.

Contact Information

The Commission is committed to the continuous improvement of its services. Evaluation of the program is ongoing to ensure that families receive the appropriate supports. For further information on this policy, please contact Ms Tracy Barron, Manager, Community Support Program: Telephone: (08) 9426 9217; toll free: 1800 998 214; TTY (08) 9426 9315; or email: tracy.barron@dsc.wa.gov.au.

If you would like to lodge a formal complaint, you can contact the Commission's Consumer Liaison Officer directly on: Telephone: (08) 9426 9244; toll free 1800 998 214; or TTY: (08) 9426 9315.

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