

RETRAITE QUÉBEC

Child assistance

If your child is handicapped or has a serious illness



There are two supplements
that provide financial assistance
for families.

Québec 

Legal deposit – 2017

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About child assistance

Retraite Québec administers the child assistance measure on behalf of the Ministère de la Famille. The measure is paid to eligible parents of children under age 18 as financial assistance in the form of child assistance payments, to which may be added two supplements: the **supplement for handicapped children** and the **supplement for handicapped children with exceptional care needs**. The purpose of the supplements is to offset the needs of children who are handicapped or seriously ill.

The supplement for handicapped children

What is it?

The purpose of the supplement for handicapped children is to help families with the care and education of handicapped children.

It can be paid for your child if he or she has an impairment or a mental function disability that substantially limits his or her life habits.

Life habits are activities a child should be able to accomplish, based on his or her age, with respect to personal care and social life:

- nutrition;
- personal care;
- moving about;
- communication;
- interpersonal relationships;
- responsibilities;
- education.

Who is entitled to it?

You are entitled to the supplement for handicapped children if

- you are eligible for child assistance;
- your child has an impairment or a mental function disability that substantially limits his or her life habits for a foreseeable duration of at least one year.

For further information on the eligibility criteria for the supplement, refer to our website.

Every government program has its own eligibility criteria. As a result, ours may differ from the criteria for programs offered by other organizations.

How much is it?

In 2017, the supplement for handicapped children is \$190 a month. It is a set amount and does not change based on family income. The amount is not taxable, and is indexed in January of each year. The supplement is paid quarterly at the same time as child assistance payments. However, you can request that it be paid monthly using our online services.

Payment of the supplement ends when your child turns 18 or if he or she no longer meets the eligibility criteria.

How do you apply?

To file an application for the supplement, you must

- complete the Application for a Supplement for Handicapped Children form and return it to us with the required documents;
- have the appropriate section completed by the health professional who assessed or has treated your child and is most familiar with your child's condition.

The Application for a Supplement for Handicapped Children form is available on our website or from any Services Québec office.

Note that it generally takes 120 days to process an application that is **complete**.

The supplement for handicapped children can be paid retroactively for up to 11 months prior to the date on which you file your application.

The supplement for handicapped children with exceptional care needs

What is it?

The purpose of the supplement is to help those parents who take on exceptional responsibilities with regard to providing special care or ensuring a constant presence for a child who has a serious illness or severe disability.

The supplement can be paid for your child if he or she has severe or absolute limitations with regard to accomplishing life habits.

Life habits are those that a child should be able to accomplish, depending on his or her age, with respect to personal care and social life:

- nutrition;
- personal care;
- moving about;
- communication;
- interpersonal relationships;
- responsibilities;
- education.

Who is entitled to it?

You are entitled to the supplement for handicapped children with exceptional care needs if

- your child is eligible for the supplement for handicapped children;
- your child has multiple severe handicaps or if his or her condition requires complex medical care at home for a period expected to last at least one year.

Your child has multiple severe handicaps

To be eligible for the supplement, your child must have physical impairments or a designated mental function disability, which means a severe intellectual impairment, **or** an autism spectrum disorder associated with an intellectual impairment **and** a severe behavioural disorder.

Your child requires complex medical care at home

To be eligible for the supplement, your child's condition must require that you provide complex medical care at home. You must have received prior training at a specialized centre to do so. The training allows you to master certain techniques regarding respiratory, nutritional, cardiac or renal care.

A diagnosis by a health care professional does not necessarily render you eligible for the supplement. Your child's condition will be assessed using set criteria such as his or her age and the severity of the limitations. Details can be found on our website.

How much is it?

In 2017, the amount of the supplement is \$954 a month. It is a set amount and does not change based on family income. The amount is not taxable, and is indexed in January of each year. The supplement for handicapped children with exceptional care needs is paid with the supplement for handicapped children and child assistance.

Payment of the supplement ends when your child turns 18 or if he or she no longer meets the eligibility criteria.

How do you apply?



If your child has already been deemed eligible for the supplement for handicapped children, all you have to do is complete the Application for Handicapped Children with Exceptional Care Needs form and send it to us. If not, you must first file an application for the supplement for handicapped children.

The Application for Handicapped Children with Exceptional Care Needs form is available on our website or at any Services Québec office.

Note that it generally takes 120 days to process an application that is **complete**. Retraite Québec may ask you to provide additional documents.

The supplement for handicapped children with exceptional care needs can be paid retroactively for up to 11 months prior to the date on which you file the application, but not before 1 April 2016.

Changes in custody

In the case of shared custody, the amount of the supplement for handicapped children and, if applicable, the supplement for handicapped children with exceptional care needs, is shared between both parents. To find out how to inform us that you have shared custody or that your conjugal situation has changed, refer to our website.

If your child has been placed

If your child has been placed and you are paying the required financial contribution, you can continue to receive the supplement for handicapped children.

Your child is not, however, eligible for the supplement for handicapped children with exceptional care needs.



To better serve you

We are committed to:

- providing the quality services you expect. Consult our *Service Statement* on our website;
- handling complaints and comments with complete independence and confidentiality. The **Commissaire aux plaintes et à l'amélioration des services** can make recommendations to improve our services and programs. You can reach them by telephone. To find out more, visit our website.



How to reach us

Online

www.retraitequebec.gouv.qc.ca

Telephone

Montréal region:

514 864-3873

Québec region:

418 643-3381

Toll-free:

1 800 667-9625

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