

Background

The Children and Youth with Complex Needs (CYCN) Initiative supports families by serving as a single access point for services delivered from a number of ministries. CYCN fosters collaborative planning and service coordination for the benefit of children and youth with complex needs who require significant *extraordinary* services and supports due to the unique nature and severity of their impairment(s).

Who are these children and youth?

These children require extraordinary services from more than one ministry and in many cases from various service sectors. Those who require such services include children and youth:

- with multiple impairments
- complex mental health and health issues and/or severe behavioural needs;
- for whom all currently available resources have been utilized with limited success; and
- who require fiscal and human resources that strain the capacity of any one ministry.

When can a child or youth with complex needs be referred for a Regional Review?

Local cross sector teams are the critical entry point to the Complex Needs process. They support comprehensive case management for children and youth in their area. At the point that this local team has met and determined they need additional support to develop and/ or implement extraordinary elements of the integrated service plan, then a referral to the Regional Review Team can be made.

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Eligibility for Review

A case is eligible for a regional integrated case management review if all of the following criteria apply:

The child or youth:

- is less than 20 years of age as of September 1; **and**
- has one or more disabling condition(s) that severely impairs his/ her ability to participate in daily activities at home, in school and in the community; **and**
- requires *extraordinary* care and services from more than one ministry; **and**
- requires a high degree of service coordination because of the complexity of the variety and intensity of services required; **and**

A minimum of one (1) of the following conditions must apply. The local programs and services:

- cannot provide the *extraordinary* combination and level of services the child requires; or
- do not have an integrated plan across services that will make a difference to outcomes for the child or
- are prevented by mandate/policy from providing the combination and level of services the child requires.

All decisions to refer a child or a youth's case for regional review are driven by the need for collaborative planning and coordination among multiple service organizations.

Referral continued...

Before requesting a referral for a Regional Review, the local cross-sector team must ensure that:

- 1) They have met to discuss and develop strategies to address the child or youth's complex needs AND tried to develop a coordinated service plan without success, and agree to request a Regional Review;
- 2) All local resources have been exhausted by exploring, with their managers, all services, programs, funding sources and extraordinary case funds available from their ministries, authorities and/or involved organizations including private or employee benefit plans held by the family;
- 3) They have determined that a coordinated service plan will prevent the child, youth, family or member of the public from being at risk;
- 4) They have determined that the child or youth has a guardian who is willing to participate in a Regional Review and in the development of a coordinated service plan; and
- 5) They have identified a person from the service providers involved with the family, who will complete the referral form for a Regional Review.



- 6) They are prepared to accept responsibility for the implementation of the integrated service plan for the child or youth and are willing to appoint a case manager.

Who can make a Referral?

If CYCN eligibility criteria are met, a referral to the Regional Review Team is made by a service provider involved with the child or youth (from Alberta Health Services, Education, Children and Youth Services) on behalf of the local cross sector team.

The service provider making the referral often appoints the case manager who acts as the contact point between the local cross sector team including the parents/guardian and the Regional Support Coordinator/ Regional Review Team.

Partners

The following ministries are working together with regional offices of health, school and child and family service authorities, to provide support to the CYCN Initiative:

- Alberta Children and Youth Services
- Alberta Education
- Alberta Health and Wellness

CYCN provides a collaborative process to discuss and address complex needs. Each service provider at the review, determines their involvement, contribution of services, supports and resources to the coordinated service plan. When appropriate, students are supported in their transition to additional supports under adult services.

Additional Information

For additional information or clarification on the:

- review process and conditions,
- parent/guardian consent form,
- team review referral form,
- sample service plans, or
- relevant assessments/reports

Contact

Provincial Coordinator (CYCN)
Phone: 780 422-6502
Fax: 780 422-2039
Toll Free: 310-0000
www.child.gov.ab.ca/home/555.cfm

NOTE: A parent can request a service provider to engage a local cross-sector team to work on an integrated plan for their child/youth, but cannot make a direct request for a referral to the Regional Review Team.