

RETRAITE QUÉBEC

Family Allowance

**If your child
is handicapped
or has a serious
illness**



Two financial assistance
programs are available to you.

Legal deposit – 2024

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Table of contents

About Family Allowance _____ **4**

The Supplement for Handicapped Children _____ **4**

Who is entitled to this financial assistance? 4

What are the eligibility requirements? _____ 5

How to file an application _____ 6

The Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care _____ **6**

Who is entitled to this financial assistance? 6

What are the eligibility requirements? _____ 8

Assessment period of eligibility for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care _____ 8

How to file an application _____ 10

Processing applications _____ **11**

Amount of the supplements _____ **12**

Frequency of payments _____ 12

Retroactive period _____ 12

End of a child's eligibility _____ 13

In the event of changes in child custody _____ **13**

To serve you better _____ **14**

Protection of personal information _____ **15**

How to reach us _____ **16**

About Family Allowance

Retraite Québec administers the Family Allowance measure for the Ministère de la Famille.

The financial assistance measure includes Family Allowance, the Supplement for Handicapped Children, the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care and the Supplement for the Purchase of School Supplies.

The information provided in this leaflet concerns the Supplement for Handicapped Children and the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care. For more information on Family Allowance and the Supplement for the Purchase of School Supplies, consult our website.

The Supplement for Handicapped Children

Who is entitled to this financial assistance?

You could be entitled to it if:

- you have a dependent child under age 18 who has a physical impairment or a mental function disability. The child's condition significantly limits him or her in carrying out the life habits compared with what is expected for a child his or her age. The expected duration of the disabilities must be for at least one year;
- you are receiving Family Allowance for a child concerned by an application for the Supplement for Handicapped Children.

When processing applications, the life habits taken into consideration are those that a child should be able to carry out, depending on his or her age, with respect to his or her personal care and social life. The life habits are the following:

- nutrition;
- personal care;
- mobility;
- communication;
- interpersonal relationships;
- responsibilities;
- education.

What are the eligibility requirements?

The Supplement for Handicapped Children is governed by the *Taxation Act* and its regulation.

To determine whether a parent can receive the Supplement for Handicapped Children for his or her child:

- we first verify whether the child's condition meets certain requirements defined in Schedule A to the Regulation respecting the *Taxation Act*;
- if none of the requirements apply to the child's condition, we will continue studying his or her eligibility by assessing the severity of the child's disability.

Consult our A handicapped child section on our website for more information on the eligibility requirements for the Supplement.

Please note that the eligibility requirements for the Supplement for Handicapped Children differ from those for other programs, including the programs administered by the Canada Revenue Agency, because they are governed by different laws. Consequently, a child can be eligible for one program without necessarily being eligible for another program.

How to file an application

To file an application for the Supplement for Handicapped Children, you must complete the Application for the Supplement for Handicapped Children on our website. You can also call us to obtain the document.

If you are not receiving Family Allowance, you can send us your application for Family Allowance Payments and your application for the Supplement for Handicapped Children at the same time.

You can track your application and find more specific information on how to complete and send your application for the Supplement for Handicapped Children in the A handicapped child section on our website.

The Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care

The Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care is added to the Supplement for Handicapped Children.

Who is entitled to this financial assistance?

You could be entitled to it if you have a dependent child under age 18 who is in one of the following situations:

Situation A

The child is age 2 or over and has physical impairments or a mental function disability causing very severe and multiple disabilities that prevent him or her from carrying out the life habits of a child of his or her age without assistance.

Expected duration of disabilities: at least one year.

Situation B

The child is between ages 0 and 18 and requires complex medical care at home for which parents have received training at a specialized centre in order to learn the specific techniques for using the required equipment. Care must be administered by the parents who must also be able to respond to any potentially life-threatening change in their child's clinical condition.

Expected duration of care: at least one year.

Situation C

The child is under age 2 and is in one of the following situations:

- The child has a severe chronic established illness, without known treatment and also has:
 - severe, multiple and persistent disabilities, including very severe motor disabilities;
 - significant and persistent daily symptoms that require complex medical care.
- The child has a neurogenetic, congenital or metabolic disease, without known treatment that limits his or her life expectancy to childhood and is associated with very significant symptoms from the first months of life due to severe, multiple and persistent disabilities.

The child's family must receive for him or her:

- Family Allowance;
- the Supplement for Handicapped Children.

What are the eligibility requirements?

The Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care is governed by the *Taxation Act* and its regulation.

We determine whether a parent can receive the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care for his or her child based on defined requirements. The child's eligibility is not based on diagnosis alone. The eligibility requirements for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care take into account one or all of the following elements:

- the presence of severe and multiple disabilities;
- the severity of the child's disability (severity of the limitations in carrying out his or her life habits based on his or her age);
- the need for complex medical care.

Assessment period of eligibility for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care

For the three situations, a child who is eligible for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care remains eligible until he or she turns 18 if his or her condition has not changed.

Situations

A Child with **very severe and multiple disabilities**

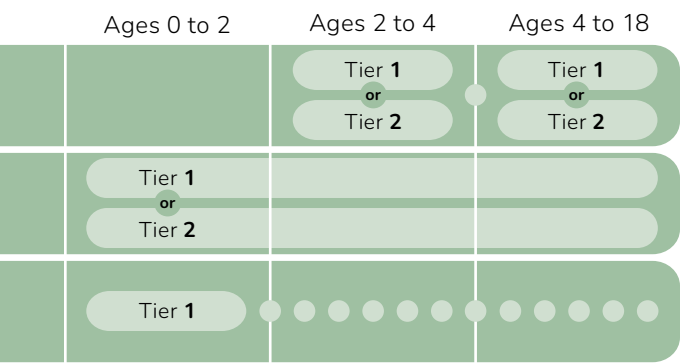
B Child requiring **complex medical care at home**

C Very young child with **severe, multiple and persistent disabilities**

Therefore, even if two children received the same diagnosis, the applications filed for them could result in different decisions due to differences in their disabilities, limitations and/or the complex medical care they require.

The Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care has two tiers of eligibility. A child may be eligible for either Tier 1 or Tier 2 depending on the severity of his or her condition and his or her age. The eligibility requirements for Tier 1 are stricter than for Tier 2. Financial assistance granted to families is therefore higher for Tier 1 than for Tier 2.

Consult our A handicapped child section on our website for more information on the eligibility requirements for the Supplement.



How to file an application

To file an application for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care, you must complete the Application for the Supplement for Handicapped Children on our website. You can also call us to obtain the document.

If you are receiving Family Allowance, but are not receiving the Supplement for Handicapped Children, you can send us your applications for the Supplement for Handicapped Children and the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care at the same time.

If you are not receiving Family Allowance nor the Supplement for Handicapped Children, you can send us your application for Family Allowance and your applications for the Supplement for Handicapped Children and the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care at the same time.

You can track your application and find more specific information on how to complete and send your application for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care in the A handicapped child section on our website.

Processing applications

Retraite Québec has a team of health professionals who assess the applications for the Supplement for Handicapped Children and the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care. The team is made up of physicians, speech-language pathologists, psychologists and nurses.

Eligibility for the Supplement for Handicapped Children and, if applicable, for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care is determined based on all the information contained in your child's file. In addition to taking into consideration the information provided by the family who files an application, Retraite Québec's team of health professionals takes into account all relevant information provided by medical or paramedical sources (contemporary scientific literature, assessment reports and follow-up notes from health professionals, examination results, etc.). Information provided by the school, daycare and psychosocial workers who know your child well is also considered.

If you have medical, professional or school documents on hand that provide information on your child's current condition, we recommend that you enclose a copy with your application.

Amount of the supplements

The amounts of the Supplement for Handicapped Children and the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care are the same for everyone, regardless of the child's condition and the family income. They are indexed, that is, adjusted to the cost of living, in January of each year and are not taxable.

Frequency of payments

The Supplement for Handicapped Children and the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care are paid with Family Allowance four times a year, that is, in January, April, July and October, on the scheduled payment dates.

To receive monthly payments, you must complete a Change in Frequency of Family Allowance Payments form.

It is recommended that you sign up for direct deposit to receive your payments.

Retroactive period

The potential retroactivity allows you to receive a retroactive payment for a maximum period of 11 months from the date on which we received your application. Therefore, families do not lose any amount as a result of the processing time for their application. However, your child must meet the eligibility requirements for the Supplement for Handicapped Children and, if applicable, for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care during all this time.

If that is not the case, we will determine a specific date on which you will receive the Supplement for Handicapped Children and, if applicable, the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring

Exceptional Care based on when your child's condition met the requirements. The retroactive period will begin on that date, and no amount can be granted before.

End of a child's eligibility

For the Supplement for Handicapped Children and the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care, payments stop when one of the following situations occurs:

- The child no longer meets the eligibility requirements.
- The child turns 18.
- The beneficiary is no longer receiving Family Allowance.

For the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care only, payments stop if the child is temporarily placed or institutionalized without interruption (more than 50% of the time), except for a respite. You must contact us to verify whether the placement conditions are complied with.

In the event of changes in child custody

If your child is eligible for the Supplement for Handicapped Children and, if applicable, for the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care, financial assistance is paid to the person who receives the Family Allowance payment. Following a separation, you must take steps in order to update your file. This step makes it possible for each eligible parent to receive his or her portion of the Family Allowance payments, but also to avoid having to repay overpayments following a change in the family situation.

For more information on the steps to take when changes in custody or conjugal status are made, consult our Union and Separation section on our website.

To serve you better

Retraite Québec is committed to:

- offering you high-quality services that meet your needs and expectations. Consult our Service Statement, which is available online;
- handling complaints and comments with complete independence and confidentiality. The Bureau des plaintes et de l'amélioration des services can make recommendations to improve our services and programs. You can file a complaint with or submit a comment to the Bureau by calling us. For further information, visit our website.

Protection of personal information

We obtain personal information from citizens, government departments and public agencies. We protect that information and make sure that it is used by duly authorized personnel in carrying out their duties.

However, we can release the information we have to certain government departments and public agencies in accordance with written agreements approved by the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec.

How to reach us

Online

retraitequebec.gouv.qc.ca

By telephone

Montréal area: **514 864-3873**

Québec area: **418 643-3381**

Toll-free: **1 800 667-9625**

My  Account

My connection to
Retraite Québec

This document has no legal value. It provides general information that may change after it is published. We suggest that you consult our website for up-to-date information.

This publication is available in alternate formats by calling **1 800 463-5185**.

Version française disponible sur demande.