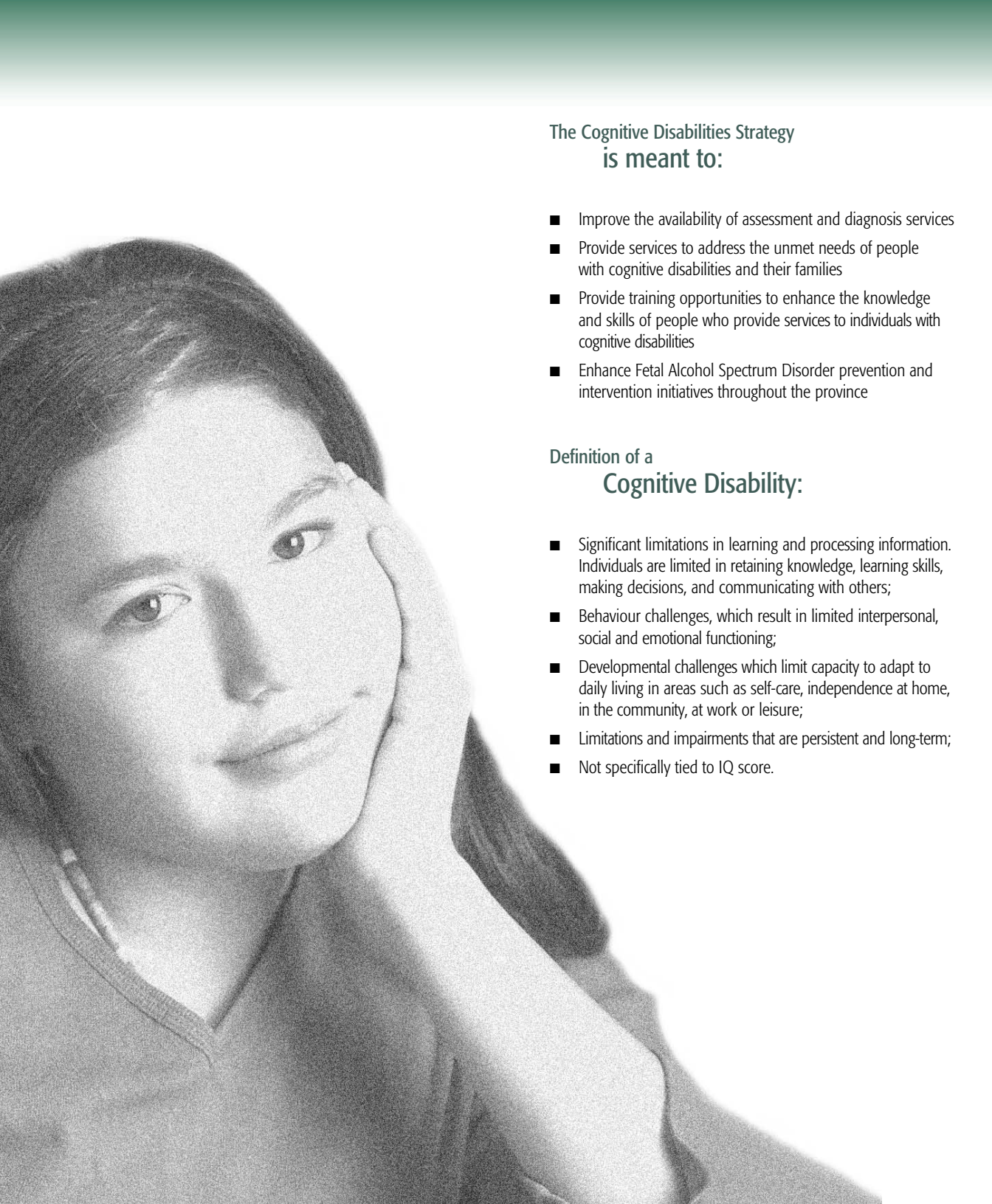


The Saskatchewan Cognitive Disabilities Strategy





The Cognitive Disabilities Strategy is meant to:

- Improve the availability of assessment and diagnosis services
- Provide services to address the unmet needs of people with cognitive disabilities and their families
- Provide training opportunities to enhance the knowledge and skills of people who provide services to individuals with cognitive disabilities
- Enhance Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention and intervention initiatives throughout the province

Definition of a Cognitive Disability:

- Significant limitations in learning and processing information. Individuals are limited in retaining knowledge, learning skills, making decisions, and communicating with others;
- Behaviour challenges, which result in limited interpersonal, social and emotional functioning;
- Developmental challenges which limit capacity to adapt to daily living in areas such as self-care, independence at home, in the community, at work or leisure;
- Limitations and impairments that are persistent and long-term;
- Not specifically tied to IQ score.

Who should apply for help from the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy?

- Individuals may have a diagnosis of FASD, Autism, or Acquired Brain Injury, but a diagnosis is not required to be eligible for assistance;
- Individuals with a cognitive disability and/or care providers who are experiencing a great deal of stress in daily living;
- Individuals who are at risk of losing, or have lost community contact and/or program placement because of behavioural issues;
- Individuals with unmet needs which require supports that do not fall within the scope of any other service providers (e.g. Community Resources, Mental Health).

What does this Strategy mean for families and individuals living with cognitive disabilities?

- You may be eligible for funding to access services that you do not currently receive
- For families, it may mean respite care or additional therapy services for your child
- For adults, it may mean having someone to help with activities of daily living, such as keeping appointments, taking medications or grocery shopping

How can an individual get help from the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy?

There are three ways to apply for help:

1. An individual or a family member can fill out the application form.
2. An individual or a family member can ask a worker they are presently working with to help them complete the form.
3. If an individual or a family does not have anyone to help them with the form and are unable to complete the form themselves, the Cognitive Disabilities Consultant can provide assistance.

How does the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy work?

When the Intake Committee approves an individual's application, they also recommend a team coordinator. The team coordinator organizes and works with a support team to explore options, create and implement support plans around the individual's needs and desired outcomes. A plan is developed with the client to meet the unmet needs of the individual. The Cognitive Disabilities Consultant may be part of the team if required.

What does the Cognitive Disabilities Consultant do?

The Consultant works with the support team to provide suggestions and training that will support an individual to achieve his or her goals. The Consultant provides individual and group training to enhance the knowledge and skills of service providers, caseworkers, and families concerning cognitive disabilities, developmental challenges and behavioural support strategies.

How can funds be accessed from the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy?

First, the Intake Committee must approve your application for support and be working with your Support Team. The Support Team determines if the unmet needs can be addressed through an existing service. When this is impossible, the team develops a support plan that includes the use of the Cognitive Disability Flexible Funding Benefit and forwards this to the Intake Committee. The Intake Committee then makes the recommendation to the provincial Community Resources office. In order to apply for this benefit, an individual (or family member) must complete the Daily Living Skills Assessment Checklist and provide information about his/her income. This information will be used to determine the individual's maximum monthly benefit. This process may take up to three months.

The Cognitive Disability Flexible Funding Benefit can be issued to the individual or to an approved payee, such as a family member or service provider. All support plans that include access to the benefit will be reviewed on a regular basis, and additional information may be required if there has been a change in circumstance.

Provincial Cognitive Disabilities Strategy
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