

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SUMMARY

Persons with Disabilities (PWD) provides financial and health support for those who have a disability in BC. The PWD application is around 28 pages and is mainly filled out by a doctor/nurse practitioner and/or an assessor.



TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PWD YOU MUST:

- + Show financial eligibility – based on income, assets and size of family unit
- + Be at least 18 years old (or 17 ½ when you apply)
- + Have a severe mental and/or physical impairment that, in a doctor's opinion is expected to continue for at least two years
- + Show that the impairment restricts your ability to perform daily living activities (either “continuously” or “periodically”)
- + Need assistance with “daily living activities,” from:
 - Another person,
 - An assistive device, and/or
 - An assistance animal.

WHAT ARE DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES?

Tasks that you do almost every day, such as: eating, grooming, walking, toileting and bathing.

ASSETS INFORMATION

You must meet specific income and asset criteria to receive the PWD benefit.

The general asset exemption limits are:

- + \$100,000 for a single, couple, or family where one person has the PWD designation.
- + \$200,000 for a couple where both adults have the PWD designation.

For a full list:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/eligibility/assets-and-exemptions>

NOTE

Some assets are allowed and do not count towards the general limit. They include your home, one motor vehicle, clothing, necessary household equipment, a Registered Disability Saving Plan and qualified trust assets.

HOW TO APPLY

STEP ONE – PROVE FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

If you are already on income assistance (IA), you can request a PWD application from the Ministry. If not, you must first complete the income assistance online application at <https://myselfserve.gov.bc.ca/>.

- + Make sure to answer “yes” to the question “Are you applying for PWD?”
- + Follow up with the Ministry (1-866-866-0800) after 5 business days if you have not heard from them
- + Request a PWD application booklet from the Ministry
- + If you are not eligible for IA but believe you are eligible for PWD, speak with a Ministry worker

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STEP TWO – COMPLETE THE PWD APPLICATION BOOKLET

The application is a 28-page booklet that has 3 different sections:

- + Section 1: completed by the applicant
- + Section 2: completed by a doctor or nurse practitioner
- + Section 3: completed by a prescribed professional



IMPORTANT: You do not have to pay the doctor or the assessor to complete their portions of the PWD application. They are paid by the provincial government for this service.

Tips for completing the application booklet

In section 1 on the first page, the applicant needs to fill in their contact information and then has the option to not complete Part B by checking off “I choose not to complete this self-report”.

To assist the doctor in completing section 2 of the application, you may want to meet with an advocate to complete a “Self-Report” booklet. This is given to your doctor to help complete Section 2 and section 3.

The doctor completing section 2 of the PWD application, should be your family doctor or a doctor that knows your medical history well. It is very important that their answers and comments reflect the fact that your disability severely restricts your daily living activities. Your doctor can also complete section 3 but if they choose not to, there is a list of other medical professionals who qualify as an assessor.

WHAT IS AN ADVOCATE’S “SELF-REPORT” BOOKLET?

This is a booklet you fill out with an advocate, similar to the PWD application, that helps explain your disability to your doctor.

STEP TWO - SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Use the “Applicant Checklist” near the end of the application to make sure you have completed all requirements before submitting your application. Once complete, mail the PWD booklet to the Ministry using the pre-paid envelope found inside the booklet.

REMEMBER: Be sure to make a photocopy of your application before submitting, for your own records.

DECISION

It typically takes 2-4 months for a decision to be made. If you disagree with the Ministry’s decision on your PWD eligibility you have the right to appeal the decision. This must be done within 20 business days of being informed of the decision.

If you need assistance with filling out the PWD application booklet, you can find an advocate in your area at <http://www.povnet.org/find-an-advocate/bc>