

Letter of Recommendation

Important Considerations for Jordan's Principle Funding Applications

Jordan's Principle is a child specific needs-based initiative. This means that services covered vary from child to child according to the child's individual needs or diagnosis.

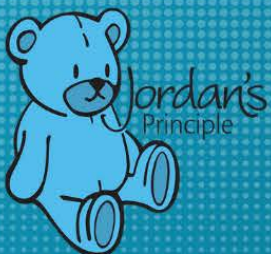
A letter of recommendation or a prescription is required from a **licensed** or **registered educational, medical** or **social professional** who works directly within the child's circle of care in a direct and current capacity (and within their scope of care)

Because a child's needs may change from year to year an updated letter of recommendation is required for **every new application**. A letter of recommendation is also required **yearly** for a recommended ongoing service.

If the request is related to cultural or land-based activities or supports, an authorized **Community Representative** can provide the letter. Examples of a Community Representative include the Community's Chief, Elder or Knowledge Keeper.

Professionals must ensure a thorough **needs assessment** has been completed, and the letter of recommendation speaks to the specific needs of the child as it relates to this request. For example- Educational supports should be recommended by a teacher who directly supports the child within their school environment. This means they are qualified to explain why the support for the child is needed.

Optional: A **paraprofessional** or someone else supporting the child can also write a letter of support to provide more information *in addition* to the professional letter of recommendation. An example of a paraprofessional would be a professional who may support the child directly within their circle of care but does not have the qualification to provide a professional letter of recommendation (Such as an educational assistant working with the child in the school setting). The teacher may write a letter of recommendation, but the educational assistant may write a letter of support to further explain the ways in which the support is needed.



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

National Changes to Non-Medical Jordan's Principle Funding Support Requests:

Jordan's Principle is a child specific needs-based initiative. This means that services covered vary from child to child according to the child's individual needs or diagnosis.

Effective immediately, all income support related requests that cannot be linked back to a child's medical need will be escalated to headquarters (National Office) for further review. This also includes all previous applications that are currently sitting in Indigenous Services Canada's backlog, still awaiting review.

Examples provided for what will be **escalated to headquarters for review** (if not medical related):

- Non-medical travel (including travel to and from cultural activities or events)
- Sports and extracurricular related activities or events
- Clothing, appliances, furniture and other basic necessities
- Rent arrears, utility bills, home renovations, property fences or equipment
- Respite Support
- Daycare and or childcare

Examples provided of services that are **currently not** affected by this change are:

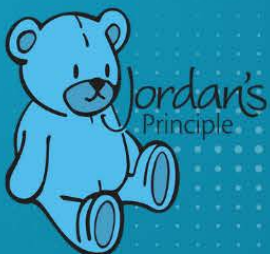
- Temporary grocery assistance (this potentially may change)
- Cultural activities and supplies
- Medical related travel needs (for those not covered through Non Insured Health Benefits)
- Emergency accommodations (for those not covered through Non Insured Health Benefits)

We recognize that this new direction will further impact wait times for children and families.

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq is committed to providing continued advocacy on behalf of the children and families that we support. Please be assured we will share any new information provided to us moving forward. If you have questions related to the above information, please reach out to the Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator for your community.

Alternatively, you may also contact **Indigenous Services Canada's Toll Free Line directly:**

1-833-652-0210



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Needs Assessment Checklist

Important Details to Include for Jordan's Principle Funding Applications

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What other options have been explored to help identify gaps in the service?

Can support be accessed through any other community support programs or funding streams?

If the support being recommended is temporary, what plans are in place in case the funding through Jordan's Principle ends or is not approved through the Indigenous Services Canada?

What are the specific medical needs as well as gaps or barriers impacting the child that can be linked to the specific support being recommended?

Have all the service details been included with the letter of recommendation? ie: Duration/frequency of service, quote for service, applicable links to purchase items if approved

Does the letter included contain the professional's designation, contact information, and their official signature?

