

## Children Out of the Parental Home (COPH) Info Sheet

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What does this program do? Indian and Northern Affairs run this program providing funds to assist Aboriginal children living on reserve with a relative.

When can COPH begin?

The eligibility date for COPH assistance is the date the COPH application is given to the administering authority and when all screening has passed OK.

What is the definition of a relative?

A person connected to the child by blood, marriage or who has an important cultural or traditional responsibility to the child

What does the relative need to do?

- Complete a COPH application for the BSDW
- Sign a COPH Screening consent form
- Complete a ministry prior contact check
- Complete a CORNET Criminal Record Check which reviews of any criminal charges and convictions

How is COPH helpful for a child?

This program provides funds if the child:

- resides in the relative's home (when the parent does not also live with the relative),
- was placed by the parents with the relative and
- typically the child is away from the parent for a short-term ( one to two years)

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What's involved in COPH screening?

1. The child meets the criteria (above)
2. The BSDW provides consent forms for the relative and any person over 18 years
3. The relative signs and returns the completed forms to the BSDW
4. The BSDW faxes the forms to MCFD
5. MCFD does the screening check within 15 days and lets the BSDW know if there is "no evidence of risk" to the child and if the application can be approved
6. The BSDW sends a letter to the relative stating they are accepted into the program because there is "no evidence of risk" to the child.
7. Every month the relative completes a COPH monthly renewal declaration. If there are changes, the BSDW will contact the relative and follow-up.

What happens if a new adult moves into the relative's home?

If a person in the home turns 18 years old or if a new adult moves into the home of the relative, the relative must inform the BSCW immediately.

If an adult in the home refuses to consent, then what?

If a person 18 years or older in the relative's home refuses to consent to a Prior Contact Check or a CORNET criminal record check, the child's application for COPH is denied.

If there are children under COPH in the relatives' home all COPH's will have their funding stopped.

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What is the role of Band Social Development Worker?

The BSDW will explain to the parents and relative program details including the forms and information handouts. The BSDW will also need child identification by birth certificate and Medical Services Card, if available.

What about parent's financial contribution?

Parents are primarily responsible for and must contribute towards the support of their children. No exceptions. The funds provided by the parent are deducted from the COPH monthly funding.

How is COPH different from GFA?

COPH requires the relative and all adults in the home to consent to a criminal record check and a prior contact check which must show "no evidence of risk" to the child before the program can begin.

COPH is new program which was formally GFA

Can COPH and EFP go together?

No. COPH is an on-reserve program. INAC won't approve if EFP is in place.

What about CPP Orphan Benefits and Disabled Contributor Benefits?

These are not considered parental contributions and do not affect COPH funds.

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What about Canada Child Tax Benefit?

CCTB, BC Family Bonus and BC Earned Income Benefit will automatically be directed to the relative. CCTB are exempt as income and do not affect COPH funding.

What are the funds for a child with COPH?

From birth to 5 years	\$257.46 monthly
6 years to 9 years	\$271.59 monthly
10 years to 11 years	\$314.31 monthly
12 years to 13 years	\$357.82 monthly
14 years to 17 years	\$402.70 monthly
18 years old	\$454.31 monthly