

## Travel Subsidy

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The Province has extended transportation assistance to patients travelling to Vancouver and elsewhere in British Columbia, to obtain specialized medical care. BC Family Residence Program travel service providers include Hope Air and the Shriners.

Hope Air has expanded its services in the province by increasing the number of free air flights it arranges for B.C. residents. This national charity helps Canadians of all ages get to medical treatment when they cannot afford air transportation. Eligibility for free flights through Hope Air is based on a number of considerations, including financial need.

The Shriners Care Cruiser Program has upgraded its fleet of transportation vehicles in service to special needs children and family members or caregivers travelling to BC Children's Hospital.

For details on travel assistance options, visit:  
[www.BCfamilyresidence.gov.bc.ca](http://www.BCfamilyresidence.gov.bc.ca)

For general information and program application details, contact the Health and Seniors Information Line at:

**1 800 465-4911**

# BC Family Residence Program

Connecting children and families with medical care



BC Family  
Residence Program

## What is the BC Family Residence Program?

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The BC Family Residence Program is a new accommodation assistance program to enable B.C. families to stay together when their child requires medical care at BC Children's Hospital, including premature babies and newborns with other health concerns.

Enhanced travel assistance is also provided through ground transportation for children and air transportation for patients of all ages.

## What assistance is available through the BC Family Residence Program?

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Accommodation and transportation subsidies are available for families with a child who require medical care at BC Children's Hospital, including premature babies and newborns with other health concerns.

Accommodation is arranged at convenient locations in the Vancouver area so that a family is able to stay close by while their child is receiving care.

Bus or air transportation may be arranged for the child and family members or caregivers to get to Vancouver from major transportation hubs located throughout the province.

The program builds on existing health authority programs that help people in rural and remote communities get to the major transportation hubs.

## Who is eligible for the BC Family Residence Program?

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Any family with permanent residence in B.C. and with coverage under the province's Medical Services Plan is eligible to receive travel and accommodation assistance.

Accommodation subsidy is available when the following requirements are met:

1. The family has a child receiving medical care at BC Children's Hospital; and
2. Confirmation of eligibility for the program is received from a medical or community service professional; and
3. The family's principal residence is outside Metro Vancouver.

## Accommodation Subsidy

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The BC Family Residence Program will subsidize up to a maximum of 30 nights for one family for accommodation at a subsidized family residence. To obtain a subsidy, families are obliged to stay at the accommodation facilities arranged for them. Facilities are paid directly by the program on behalf of the family.

Variety – the Children's Charity of BC, is the Province's service provider for the accommodation component of the BC Family Residence Program. Through its extensive network of agencies and facilities, Variety is best able to arrange suitable housing for out-of-town families.