

# Programs and Services for Children Youth, and Families



of risk and serious injury, and exploring options to incorporate this program into a restorative justice/diversion program for youth

**Child Safety Link 424-5362**  
provides funding to strengthen car seat/booster seat education, implement a provincial car seat safety strategy, establish a network of car seat coalitions across the province, explore development of a loaner/donor program for car seat/booster seats

**Suicide Prevention Strategy 424-5464**  
carries out implementation of the suicide prevention strategy and continues its work with CMHA to support the development of community-based suicide prevention initiatives including actively exploring a specific initiative for LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender)

**Road Safety 424-5362**  
partners with Transportation and Public Works as part of the Road Safety Advisory Committee to put a road safety communications campaign together targeting impaired driving and speeding

**Helmet Safety 424-5362**  
supports a number of helmet safety related activities including policy development, Helmet Safety Action Coalition, Noggin Knowledge Program, support for helmets (disparities issues), and various other awareness and enforcement programs

**Alcohol Strategy 424-4368**  
coordinates the development of a provincial Alcohol Strategy planned for completion this year

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) 424-4368**  
focuses on priorities related to FASD with several government departments, including participating in the Atlantic Intergovernmental FASD Partnership, revisiting the FASD report made to CAYAC in 2000, and identifying stakeholders to contribute to the development of the alcohol strategy related to FASD

**Web-based Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Resources 424-4368**  
works with Education to provide leadership in the development of web-based Alcohol and Other Drug Education Curriculum Resources for teachers and students in grades 10 to 12

**Targeted Education Programs on Risks of Gambling 424-2175**  
plans early identification/intervention programs in the near future to increase knowledge of youths and seniors and provide tools that they need to help mitigate at-risk and problem gambling

**Rural Women and Youth Addiction Service 424-4368**  
provides rural women and youth increased accessibility to prevention, early intervention, and treatment services in their communities

**Addictions Prevention Curriculum Supplement 424-4368**  
provides, in partnership with the Department of Education, an addictions prevention curriculum supplement for grades 7–9

**Problem Gambling Help Line 1-888-347-8888**  
Provides Nova Scotians with access to professional social workers who specialize in gambling addiction 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services include: assessment, treatment and referral of problem gamblers; advice, information and treatment for their families, friends and employers; and gambling related materials for anyone, including individual members of the general population, who request them

**Problem Gambling Social Marketing Campaign 424-2175**  
targets problem and at-risk gamblers aged 19–34 years

**Nova Scotia Student Drug Use Survey 424-4368**  
administers, in collaboration with the other Atlantic provinces, a standardized survey to gather relevant monitoring data to evaluate the successes within the field of addictions-related health including goals, objectives, and strategies related to adolescent substance abuse, gambling, and associated behaviours

**MomsandDads.ca—Parenting Social Marketing Campaign (Chronic Disease Prevention) 424-5840**  
targets parents of young children aged 0–12 years to motivate parents to make changes to improve the health of their children, focusing on healthy eating, physical activity, car seat/booster seat usage, and second-hand smoke in the home

## Department of Justice

### Correctional Services 424-7640

In accordance with the Youth Criminal Justice Act Correctional Services delivers a range of programs and services for young persons, between the ages of 12 and 17, who are in custody or under court ordered community supervision

**Nova Scotia Youth Facility**  
provides safe and secure custody for incarcerated youth at the Nova Scotia Youth Facility

**Correctional Investigative Reports**  
provides investigative reports to the courts on the status of youth, e.g., pre-sentence reports

**Reintegration/Rehabilitative Planning and Case Management**  
provides case planning for youth in custody to be reintegrated into society

**Community Supervision and Support**  
provides community oversight, support and monitoring for youth under court-ordered community supervision, e.g., probation, deferred custody and supervision, bail

**Correctional Enforcement**  
enforces conditions placed on a youth under court-ordered community supervision

**Education Programs**  
provides public school education programs for youth in custody and an experiential-based school curriculum and employment placements at the community-based alternative day schools for youth in custody and those under community supervision

**Employment Placement**  
Provides employment placements/jobs for youth in custody or under court-ordered community supervision

**Life Skills, Anger Management, Substance Abuse and other Programs**  
provides a variety of psycho-education programs for youth in custody and under community supervision, such as:

- anger management (eg, CALM, Options)
- life skills (e.g. Reasoning and Rehabilitation)
- substance abuse education
- gender-specific programs (eg, Voices)

**Leisure Activity**  
engages youth in custody or under court-ordered community supervision in leisure activity such as canoeing, swimming, fitness, adventure, sports, and summer camps

**Spiritual and Cultural Programs and Services**  
provides spiritual programs and support, and a range culturally sensitive programs for youth in custody, e.g., powwows, sweat lodges, sweet grass ceremonies, Life Lessons for Black Youth

**Halifax Youth Attendance Centre**  
provides a range of day, evening, weekend and summer programming for youth under court-ordered community supervision, including alternative day school, psycho-educational programs, and leisure programs, as well as employment services through the Department of Community Services. Psychological and social work services are also provided on site by the IWK Health Centre. A bail supervision program is also co-located at the Centre

**Cape Breton Youth Resource Centre**  
provides youth under court-ordered community supervision with psycho-educational, employment and leisure programs

**Centre 24/7**  
provides youth in custody or under court-ordered community supervision with community-based alternative day school and psycho-educational programs

**Restorative Justice 424 3303**  
provides extrajudicial measures and restorative conferencing in Nova Scotia under the Youth Criminal Justice Act for referred young persons between the ages of 12 and 17, delivered by a network of approved community-based agencies

**Victim Services 424 8785**  
provides province wide services to reduce the harmful impact of crime on victims. Services include a specialized court preparation and support program for child victims who are called to testify to criminal proceedings

## Department of Community Services

1-877-424-1177 (toll free in Nova Scotia)

### Child Welfare Services

**Child Protection Services**  
ensures that children are safe from maltreatment (If you are concerned about a child's welfare after regular business hours—4:30 pm to 8:30 am Monday to Friday, on weekends, or on holidays—the emergency duty child welfare number is 1-866-922-2434.)

**Child-In-Care Program**  
ensures that children are raised in nurturing families that meet their needs

**Foster Care Services**  
provides safe and nurturing homes for children and youth who are unable to be in their birth families for different reasons and varying lengths of time

**Residential Services**  
ensures children and youth receive safe nurturing guidance from qualified youth care program staff in residential child-caring facilities

### Community Outreach Services

**Family Resource Centres**  
delivers services through 36 centres to families with children under six years of age who are considered at risk of poor outcomes; services include parent education, informal support, information, and referral

**Family Violence Initiative**  
responds to victims and perpetrators of family violence; funds transition houses that provide emergency shelter and supports for women victims and their children; funds men's intervention programs that provide counselling for male perpetrators and safety planning for women partners

**Enhanced Programs and Community Outreach**  
promotes language and cognition skills of children under six years of age through Early Language and Learning program; provides parent education grants to increase the quantity and comprehensiveness of programs in the areas of parent education and support; provides parent-child interaction programs; provides child care information and training to caregivers outside of regulated day care in matters of early childhood development and education

**Prevention Initiatives**  
promotes healthy child and family development; offers early childhood development programs and services; provides resource materials to family resource centres; provides expert consultation and support for regional planning groups; provides and coordinates training and networking opportunities for regional/ family resource centre staff; funds YMCA summer camps; funds the Boys and Girls Club to support the delivery of programs; and funds family counselling agencies.

**Training Unit**  
plans, develops, and delivers training to staff and related stakeholders

### Early Childhood Development Services

**Child Care Licensing and Standards**  
regulates and monitors child-care services to ensure compliance with the *Nova Scotia Day Care Act* and Regulations

**Supported Child Care**  
supports the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child-care facilities through funding

**Child Care Subsidy**  
subsidizes licensed child care for low-income families

**Early Intervention**  
provides home-based support and information for families with children (0–6) with developmental disabilities to positively influence the children's developmental outcomes

**Grant Funding**  
provides grants to child-care centres and related facilities/associations to support costs related to quality early childhood programs

**Early Childhood Education Training**  
ensures a standard of early childhood education training in the province

### Services for Persons with Disabilities

**Direct Family Support**  
funds the purchase of respite services for families caring for a family member with a disability at home

**Small Option Facilities for Children**  
provides full-time licensed care to children with disabilities in groups of up to four children

## Department of Health

(902) 424-5818 or 1-800-387-6665  
(toll free in Nova Scotia)

### Early Years Initiatives

**Prenatal Care, Reproductive Care Program**  
provides pre-, peri-, and post-natal care to mothers and babies through DHAs, primary care physicians, and specialists (obs/gyn), including screening for bio-psycho issues (0–12 months)

**“Read to Me” Program**  
provides early literacy activities to families at all facilities doing deliveries (led by IWK), which facilitate parental/baby attachment by encouraging physical and verbal contact between parents and baby/child (0–3 years)

**Infant Hearing Screening—“Sound Start”**  
screens hearing of all newborns at birth in all delivery hospitals (administered by Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres) to identify potential sensory deficits and offer intervention programs in infancy, thus mitigating risk factors of normal growth and development during early months when brain development is rapid

**Pediatricians and Other Child Health Care Professionals**  
provide a wide range of early identification and treatment programs to children with issues including developmental delays, behavioural problems, learning difficulties, and parenting problems through pediatricians and clinical care teams located throughout the province, hospital care, and community-based services

**Autism Treatment—Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention (EIBI) Program**  
provides time-limited, intensive treatment for children diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder who are not yet in school to optimize lifelong functioning and enhance success at school; offered in DHAs 1 to 8 and at the IWK

### Mental Health, Forensic Services, and Addiction Services

**Maternal/Child Mental Health**  
provides mental health services for mothers from conception until baby's first year of age, focusing on early identification of and early intervention for maternal depression/anxiety and other mental health issues and early identification of challenges to maternal and newborn attachment and relationship problems (program links to both mental health continuum and maternity programs)

This information is subject to change.

