

THE DISABILITY TAX CREDIT

About the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is a federal, non-refundable tax credit for people with disabilities or their eligible family members. The DTC can reduce the amount of income tax that you or an eligible family member owe. However, if you do not owe any income tax, or if your tax owed is less than the amount of your credit, you will not receive a refund. The DTC also provides access to other disability-related tax credits and benefits.

 <https://www.CanadaDisabilityBenefit.ca/Do-I-Qualify-for-the-DTC>

Do I qualify for the DTC?

To qualify for the DTC, you:

- can be any age,
- must be a resident of Canada for tax filing purposes (you do not need to be a permanent resident or a Canadian citizen), and
- must have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN), that is temporary or permanent.

Your income and the value of your assets do not affect your eligibility.

A medical practitioner must also certify that one or more of the following apply:

1) You have a marked restriction in at least one activity of daily living

- You either cannot perform the activity of daily living (including walking, mental functions, dressing, feeding, using the toilet, hearing, speaking, and vision), it takes you three times longer than someone of a similar age without the impairment, or you need assistance to complete the activity, AND
- Your restriction is present almost all the time, AND
- This restriction has lasted or is expected to last continuously for at least one year.



2) You have significant limitations in two or more activities of daily living

- You have restrictions in two or more activities of daily living, AND
- The combined effects of your impairments are equal to a marked restriction, AND
- The combined limitations are present almost all the time, even with therapy, medication, or devices, AND
- The restrictions have lasted or are expected to last continuously for at least one year.

3) You receive life-sustaining therapy

- The therapy is required to support a vital function, even if it only helps manage symptoms. This includes patients who require dialysis, insulin, oxygen therapy, and chest physiotherapy, AND
- You need the therapy at least twice a week, AND
- The therapy takes an average of 14 hours each week, which affects your daily activities, AND
- The therapy has lasted or is expected to last continuously for at least one year.

I don't owe any income tax. Should I still apply?

Even if you don't owe any income tax, applying for the DTC has other advantages.

- Any unused credit amount can be transferred to an eligible family member.
- The DTC is retroactive, and you may be able to claim it going back up to 10 years.
- Getting approved for the DTC gives you access to other federal programs, including the Registered Disability Savings Plan, the Canada workers benefit disability supplement, the child disability benefit, and the upcoming Canada Disability Benefit.

Where can I find additional information and support?

Plan Institute has a free Disability Planning Helpline that is available across Canada. Our advisors can support you at each step of the DTC application process. You can reach our helpline by calling 1-844-311-7526 or by emailing us at helpline@planinstitute.ca.

About Plan Institute

Plan Institute is a national non-profit based in BC. Our mission is to empower people with disabilities to lead a good life. We provide educational materials, resources and individualized support to people with disabilities and their families.

