

TARGET POPULATION

The target population for coordinated service planning is families of children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs who would benefit from the added support provided by coordinated service planning, due to the breadth and cross-sectoral nature of their children’s service needs and/or potential challenges in coordinating services because of factors affecting the whole family.

Service Planning Coordinators and other staff involved in intake will need to use judgement when determining whether a family would benefit from the service and to what intensity.

Coordinating Agencies will consider the following child/youth and family characteristics and external factors when identifying children and youth and families who would benefit most from coordinated service planning:

Characteristics of child/youth with multiple and/or complex special needs	Characteristics of family	External factors/Environmental components
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs are a sub-set of children and youth with special needs. ○ These children require multiple specialized services (e.g. rehabilitation services, autism services, developmental services, and/or respite supports) due to the depth and breadth of their needs. ○ They may experience challenges related to multiple areas of their development, including their physical, communication, intellectual, emotional, social, and/or behavioural development and require services from multiple sectors and/or professionals. ○ They are also likely to have ongoing service needs, such as severe physical and intellectual impairments requiring the use of technology. 	<p>Families of children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs may be experiencing internal challenges in one or more of the following areas which may impede their ability to coordinate services for their child/youth with multiple and/or complex special needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coping strengths and adaptability; ▪ Health and well-being of other family members; ▪ Literacy and/or language barriers; and/or ▪ Other family/life events which may contribute to the family’s level of distress. 	<p>Families of children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs may also be experiencing challenges in the following areas which may impede their ability to coordinate services for their child/youth with multiple and/or complex special needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited social/community supports; ▪ Competing demands of caregiving and employment; and/or ▪ Financial instability.