Individualised Funding

Individualised funding (IF) is money provided by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).

If you receive IF, you will manage your supports through an IF Host organisation. You'll have an IF Host who will help you understand and manage your IF. They'll administer payments to support services for you, help you manage your responsibilities (like reporting your support workers' hours so that they can be paid correctly), and help you work out whether something you want to purchase meets the Purchasing Guidelines for IF.

Your IF host will also make sure that the IF service is working well for you, and will report back to MSD about this.

Your IF Host can also be responsible for recruiting and training your support workers, and/or managing any legal aspects to your IF service. There will be an extra fee for this - if this is a service you'd like, talk to your IF Host about this.

What can I spend IF on?

You can spend your Individualised Funding on:

- Paying a support worker to help you look after yourself and/or manage your household
- Any item or support that enables you to live and carry out tasks more independently, as long as this means you need less support from other sources (for example, if you need noise-cancelling headphones to do chores, this would mean you no longer need a support worker to clean for you)

- Some sensory items; you can use Individualised Funding for one-off purchases of sensory toys, a weighted blanket, noise-cancelling headphones, and/or a tablet that is used to help with sensory issues

- Paying a substitute carer if you have a full-time carer, so that your full-time carer can take a break

- If you have a full-time carer, purchasing items that will support you to be independent while your carer takes a break.

You cannot use Individualised Funding for:

- Anything you would still need if you did not have a disability

- Gambling, purchasing alcohol, or anything illegal

- Health services that are not directly related to your disability

- Anything that could be covered by another funding source, like the Work and Income Disability Allowance, equipment funding from the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education, transport schemes like Total Mobility, or other specialist services

- Self-care services for your carer if you have one

- Travel-related costs for you or your support workers (including food or accommodation).

Who can get Individualised Funding?

You can get IF if you are eligible for disability support services. Your local Needs Assessment Support Coordinator (NASC) can assess this and allocate funding. You will need to provide documentation of your autism diagnosis, as well as documented evidence that you need support (the clinician who did your diagnosis can provide this). NASCs do not currently accept telehealth diagnoses.

Due to funding restrictions, Individualised Funding is currently extremely difficult to access across all regions, and may be unavailable in some places. If you are struggling to access funding that you are entitled to, talk to one of our Outreach Coordinators (a list by region is here) or have a look at our resource on self-advocacy and list of advocacy organisations here.

You can find the full Purchasing Guidelines here: https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/assets/Purchasing-rules-24-April-20241.pdf