

Health Related Services

The following health related services and benefits are available through the Income Support Program of the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment.

Vision Care

Eye Examinations

Assistance with the cost of a routine eye examination will be considered upon request by the applicant/recipient of Income Support. The maximum contribution toward this cost will be \$55.00. Dependent children under 18 years of age are eligible to receive this service once every 12 months while adults are eligible once every 36 months.

Eye Glasses

Applicants / recipients may be eligible for a contribution towards the cost of eyeglasses, as prescribed by an optometrist or physician, subject to the following restrictions:

A maximum contribution of

- \$125.00 for single vision lens; and
- \$175.00 for bi-focals.

Glasses will be provided at a maximum of once every three years for adults and once a year for children unless there is a medically substantiated reason by the optometrist or physician for a more frequent change. Financial support may be provided directly to assist with the cost, or clients may receive an Authorization for Service to bring to the company of their choice who will invoice the department directly at the prescribed rates.

Prescription Drug Program

This program provides a Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) Card to individuals and families who are receiving income support benefits. This card covers the total cost of eligible prescription medications, including dispensing fees. If clients have a private health insurance plan which covers a percentage of prescriptions, a drug card can be issued to offset the difference of approved drugs. If recipients leave Income Support due to employment, a drug card can be issued for an extended six month period.

Medical Transportation

Medical transportation expenses may be considered depending on the medical need, frequency of medical appointments and whether travel is required outside the district. Financial assistance is normally assessed considering the most economical and efficient means of transportation. Assistance is generally approved for travel to the nearest medical professional or facility.

In the event a client or family member needs to travel outside the province for a medical service not available in Newfoundland and Labrador, assistance for transportation requires documentation to support this need.

In an emergency situation requiring the services of an ambulance, eligible recipients are required only to produce their valid Ambulance/Dental Services card to the ambulance attendant.

Further information on next page...

Medical Equipment and Supplies

Applicants / recipients may be eligible for prosthetic appliances and other medical equipment and/or supplies provided through the Special Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Community Services. Supplies include, but are not limited to, such items as glucose monitoring aids, bath aid equipment and wheelchairs.

The Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, through the Income Support Program, conducts assessments that determine financial eligibility for these services and provides written verification of eligibility. The Special Assistance Program determines the type of equipment and supplies which are covered. More information about the services provided can be obtained by contacting the nearest HRLE District Office.

Dental Services

The Provincial Dental Health Plan is administered by the Newfoundland Medical Care Commission (MCP). The Dental Health Plan has two programs under the Department of Health and Community Services:

- **Children's Dental Health Program:** this universal program provides services for all children up to and including 12 years of age
- **Social Assistance Dental Program:** for children 13 to 17 years old whose families are in receipt of Income Support; fillings, extractions and examinations every two years are covered by the presentation of a valid Ambulance/Dental Services card. Adult Income Support recipients, 18 years of age and older, are eligible for emergency care involving the relief of pain, infection, trauma, and extractions upon presentation of a valid Ambulance/Dental Services card

The Income Support Program may consider an amount toward the cost of dentures in certain circumstances.

Technical Assistance Devices

The Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment can provide a recipient, as a one time only purchase, technical assistance devices upon verification that they are deaf or hard of hearing. One or all three of the following services can be provided:

- Visual Smoke Detector up to \$250.00 including HST
- Alertmaster telephone/doorbell combination system up to \$155.00 including HST
- TTY device up to \$422.00 including HST

Monthly cost and maintenance associated with these devices would be the responsibility of the recipient. Verification of a clients medical condition can be provided by a physician, audiologist, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association or other approved professional.

Special Diet Allowance

Financial assistance may be provided to purchase certain foods because of a particular medical condition, such as diabetes. Depending on your medical condition, you may be eligible for up to \$60 a month. To qualify for the special diet allowance you must provide documentation about your condition.

Note: For some of the items/services listed above consideration can be given to individuals not currently receiving income support benefits, based on a financial assessment. An application for Income Support will need to be completed to determine eligibility. If you need more information about eligibility for programs and services offered by the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, please call the nearest District Office.