

# Social Programs Presentation 101



Indigenous Services  
Canada

Services aux  
Autochtones Canada

Canada

# Income Assistance

- Income Assistance is a program that provides last resort financial assistance to clients who are ordinarily residents on reserve. It is meant to align with the Government of Alberta's Income Support program that provides funds to clients living off reserve.
- Clients have to be able to clearly demonstrate their financial need in order to be eligible for Income Assistance.
- Clients will have to provide all required documentation to their case worker in order to demonstrate eligibility and to be able to continue receiving Income Assistance

# Income Assistance Client Categories:

- Expected to Work (ETW)
  - Four categories of Expected to Work: ETW-A, ETW-B, ETW-C & ETW-D
- Barriers to Full Employment (BFE)
  - Three categories of Barriers to Full Employment: BFE-A, BFE- & BFE-C
- Learners: Effective April 1, 2022 those who are wanting to access learners supports *on reserve or off reserve* will go through the Province of Alberta.

# Income Assistance – Basic Needs

**Program allocation for Core Essential Basic Needs includes items such as:**

- Food, clothing, household needs and other day to day expenses
- The amount of Core Essential benefits is determined by household category and family composition.
- Clients attending residential addictions treatment may require a personal allowance.

# Basic Needs - Shelter

- Income Assistance pays rent on Section 95 homes (CMHC) where there is a tenancy agreement on file. For all other band owned homes, Income Assistance will pay rent if there is a Universal/Community Wide Rental regime in place. There must be rental agreements and if rent is collected on all band-owned homes.
- Shelter allowance should be paid directly to the individual unless the client has demonstrated an inability to pay their bills on their own. Where applicable the Nation to pay utility bills for IA clients. The invoices for Fuel & Utilities are required to substantiate eligibility.
- The amount of Core Shelter benefits is determined by family composition.

# Supplements to Core Benefits

- There are several supplements to Core Benefits that are issued as continuous need and non-continuous need.
- Personal Needs Supplement, is issued to BFE adults residing in ETW households \$85 monthly
- Earnings Replacement Benefit, is intended for ETW-C households where all adults are temporarily not able to work/train due to short term health concerns, or family care responsibilities. \$94 monthly
- Additional Shelter costs above the Core Shelter monthly maximum may be issued on a continuous basis to meet the requirements of clients with unique shelter needs
- Prenatal Needs Payment - \$100 monthly for expenses related to prenatal care; starting in the month of their 14 week of pregnancy
- Special diets, funeral benefits
  - Please note that if the client requires more than one special diet, the rate for both diets is issued unless the chart states otherwise.

# Special Diets

Special Diet	Description	Monthly Rate per Adult or Child
Low Sodium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not issue with Diabetic/ Heart Healthy Diet</li> <li>Do not issue with Renal Failure/Insufficiency Diet</li> </ul>	\$23
Low Cholesterol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both diets have similar nutritional requirements</li> <li>Do not issue for both</li> </ul>	\$23
Low Fat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not issue with Diabetic/ Heart Healthy Diet</li> <li>Do not issue Low Fat Diet with Renal Failure/Insufficiency Diet</li> </ul>	\$23
High Fiber		\$23
High Calcium		\$23
High Protein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not issue with Renal Failure/Insufficiency diet</li> </ul>	\$23
Lactose Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not issue with Milk Free Diet</li> </ul>	\$23
Milk Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This diet contains the nutritional elements covered in a Lactose Free Diet</li> <li>Do not issue with Lactose Free Diet</li> </ul>	\$56
Low Potassium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not issue for both</li> <li>Do not issue Low Potassium Diet with Renal Failure/Insufficiency Diet</li> </ul>	\$23
High Potassium		
Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All women who are pregnant or become pregnant must be issued this special diet for pregnancy</li> <li>The special diet rate for pregnancy is doubled if the woman is pregnant with twins</li> </ul>	\$28
Breastfeeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds must be issued for breastfeeding and/or infant formula</li> <li>The special diet rate for breastfeeding is doubled if breastfeeding twins</li> <li>If the baby is breast fed and on infant formula, both diets should be considered</li> <li>Issued for as long as the child is breastfeeding</li> <li>Not issued beyond the child's 1st birthday</li> </ul>	\$33

## Special Diets Continued

Infant Formula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-prescription formula only</li> <li>• Funds must be issued for infant formula and/or breastfeeding</li> <li>• If the child is breast fed and on formula, both diets should be considered</li> <li>• The Issuing Authority reviews files periodically to assess continued need</li> <li>• The difference between the cost of the infant formula and the child's "Food Only" rate (\$91) up to a maximum of \$218 is used</li> <li>• To determine benefit amount: (Actual Cost of Formula)-(\$91)=(Special Diet for Infant Formula) max \$218</li> <li>• Director Approval is required to exceed the \$218 maximum</li> <li>• An estimate of the monthly cost from an appropriate health care practitioner is required</li> <li>• Prescription formula costs go through FNIHB</li> </ul>	Up to \$218 based on the actual cost of the infant formula
HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both diets have similar nutritional requirements</li> <li>• Do not issue for both</li> </ul>	\$40
Diabetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both diets have similar nutritional requirements</li> <li>• Do not issue for both</li> <li>• These diets also contain the nutritional elements covered in low cholesterol, low fat, and low sodium diets. Do not duplicate benefits</li> <li>• Do not issue with Renal Failure/Insufficiency diet</li> </ul>	\$44
High Calorie (over 2,500 calories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Boost, Ensure or Similar high calorie supplements are prescribed, do not issue the Special Diet benefit for the high calorie diet because this may be covered through health benefits</li> <li>• Do not issue with renal failure/insufficiency diet</li> </ul>	\$40
Heart Healthy		
Celiac/ Gluten Free		\$87
Renal Failure/ Insufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains the nutritional elements covered in high calorie, high protein, low sodium, low potassium, low fat, diabetic, and heart healthy.</li> <li>• Do not duplicate benefits</li> <li>• This diet includes diets for kidney failure, and end stage kidney disease</li> </ul>	\$120



# Special Needs

Examples of Special Needs:

- Natal and Adoptive Needs Payment
- Child Care other than for Employment
- Unpaid Utility Bills
- Employment and Training and Transitional Supports
- Non-Insured Health Benefits
- Escaping Family Violence, Emergency Allowance
- Relocation Allowance
- Community Living Start Up Allowance
- Emergency Special Needs –example emergency food: \$12 per day per adult and \$7 per day per child. If insufficient, can issue the “Food Only” portion of Core Essential Benefit - \$156 for the adult in a single adult household, \$149 for each adult in a two adult household, and \$91 for each dependent child.

# Child Out of Parental Home (COPH)

- An allowance and support for households who are temporarily caring for a child who is not able to reside in the parental home, and who is not involved in the child welfare/foster care system. There must be a Parental Consent Letter on the file which indicates why the child(ren) are not able to live with their parent(s)
- The Intervention Record Check and Criminal Records Check requirement is waived if the COPH Applicant has a legal Guardianship Order for the child(ren)
- Applicants will need to apply for the Canada Child Benefit or make arrangements with the parents to receive the Canada Child Benefit

# Child Out of Parental Home (COPH)

- The COPH Basic Allowance for Children 0-11 years of age is \$105.
- The COPH Basic Allowance for Children 12-17 years of age is \$148.
- Applicants are able to receive the COPH Annual Supplementary Enhancement Benefit for each child. The amount is \$200 per year and it is intended to help offset recreation costs and school expenses not covered by the school.

# Assisted Living Social Program

- To provide support for eligible, low income individuals with non-medical, social support services to seniors and adults with disabilities to help them maintain functional independence for as long as possible in their home communities.

## Support criteria:

- Individuals who do not have the resources to obtain such services themselves and who do not have access to other federal, provincial, or territorial support, confirmed by a designated social or health professional assessment
- Individuals can receive up to 10 hours a week of in home care services where there is verified financial need (income test)
- If a client is living with family, family members are expected to assist the client.

# Assisted Living Program Services May Include:

- Meal programs and meal preparations;
- Menu planning;
- Day programs;
- Short-term respite care – gives the unpaid caretaker a break in order to reduce burnout.
- Routine, light housekeeping, including laundry, ironing and mending;
- Carrying water and wood;
- Home management (light and heavy cleaning);
- Minor home maintenance; and,
- Transportation, banking or shopping for essentials

Please note that the cost of food is the responsibility of the Assisted Living client. The AL Program can pay the cost of preparing and delivering food for the Meals on Wheels Program for AL clients.

# Adult Foster Care & Institutional Care In Alberta

- In Alberta, supports are provided to clients living in:
  - **Adult Foster Care** - seniors' lodges, group homes for individuals with development disabilities, residential homes, and other supportive living accommodations in Alberta
  - **Institutional Care** - designated supportive living facilities and long term care facilities in Alberta
- In these accommodations ISC has the authority to fund only Type I & II non-medical level care, even if the Foster Care and Institutional Care homes are located off reserve. A client is eligible for this funding if the client's last place of residence was on the reserve.

## Income Assistance Covid-19 Funding

- Indigenous Services Canada provided COVID-19 Funds for the on-reserve Income Assistance program to help ensure that First Nation individuals and families who rely on Income Assistance were able to cover their essential living expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Funding Provided:  
2020-2021 \$25,248,209 & 2021-2022 \$33,162,366

Examples of eligible activities for Covid-19 funding:

- Bulk food purchases for distribution
- Community pantry (including traditional food procurement)
- Greenhouse food program
- Gift cards for food, clothing, gas
- Transportation/delivery service for food and supplies (for IA clients only)
- Cultural baskets (hunting, fishing)
- Bulk cleaning supplies

# Income Assistance Inflation Funding

- Inflation funding is being provided to help address hardships that Income Assistance clients are facing due to rising inflation in Canada.
- Funding Provided:  
2022-2023 \$34,101,633 & 2023-2024 \$22,734,422

Examples of eligible activities for inflation funding:

- Bulk food purchases for distribution
- Bulk purchase of appliances
- Community pantry (including traditional food procurement)
- Greenhouse food program
- Gift cards for food, clothing, gas
- Transportation/delivery service for food and supplies (for IA clients only or the % that represents service for IA clients)
- Cultural baskets (hunting, fishing)
- Bulk cleaning supplies



Questions?

Thank you!

# Contact Information

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