

# Social Assistance and You

Developed by the Community Advocates Network

c/o North End Community Health Centre  
2165 Gottingen Street Halifax, NS B3K 3B5

## Children's Policies

There is no one place in income assistance policy about children. This information sheet pulls together some of these policies.

## Shelter for Families

2 people Rent: \$570.00 per month; Board \$242.00 per month

3+ people Rent: \$620.00 per month; Board \$282.00 per month

You are boarding if you do not have your own entrance or a separate place to cook your food.

**Pregnant women and shelter rates:** If you are 19 years of age and older, at least 7 months pregnant and seeking shelter for you and your unborn child you can receive up to \$570.00 per month. This includes utilities and rent.

**Emergency Shelter for Families:** If you and your family need emergency shelter, income assistance can provide this if you have not already been helped (in Nova Scotia or elsewhere). You will be put in the cheapest place to stay but your family will not be broken up. You could be placed in a motel.

**Children's allowance:** There is **no** children's allowance in a income assistance budget unless your family is not receiving the combined Nova Scotia Child Benefit and National Child Benefit (also known as family allowance or baby bonus). If you are not receiving family allowance you are entitled to \$133.00 per month for each child under the age of 18. Children 18-21 and still in school are eligible for \$200.

**Child Tax Credit/National Child Benefit:** You as a parent are expected to cover your children's needs with your family allowance cheque. This allowance goes up every year in July, As of July, 2006 the maximum amount of money a family can receive each month is:

One child	\$303.00
Two children	\$605.00
Three children	\$913.00
Four children	\$1221.38
Five children	\$11529.37

Plus \$19.91 for each child under seven (7) years old.

**Joint custody:** If you are the parent who receives family allowance then you can include your child in your income assistance budget. You must have the proper documents about the child's custody.

**Transportation:** Your worker is allowed to pay up to \$150.00 per month for transportation, for employment or medical needs.

This would include taking a child to a doctor or to daycare or other service the child needed.

**Child in applicant's care:** If you are looking after someone else's child and are the legal guardian of the child in your care you may include this child in your family budget.

**Child Care:** Income Assistance will pay for child care for children 13 years of age and under if you are: upgrading, looking for a job, volunteering, going to a job, doing job training or other employment program, medically unable to care for your children (a doctor's note is required) or the worker believes it is in the best interest of the family

You can also get child care if:

- your child is over 13 years of age and has a disability
- your child is over 13 years of age and the worker believes that childcare is in the best interest of your child's health and safety.

You can get up to \$400.00 per family for the following:

- a subsidized daycare seat
- early morning, lunch and after school programs
- private licensed care
- private, unlicensed care in your home
- care provided (with proof of cost) by your parents if you are a single parent (who is on income assistance) going to an approved a school program and living with your parents.

**School supplies:** as a parent on income assistance, you are entitled to school supplies for your children who are between the ages of 5 and 18 years old. In September of each year an amount will be included in your cheque to help with school supplies. Rates are: 5-12 year olds \$50.00 per child  
13-18 year olds \$100.00 per child.

You will get \$100 per child for children who are 19 and 20, who are dependents and in school.

Our membership is made up of First Voice people, who are directly affected by social assistance reform, as well as groups, organizations and agencies. Together with first voice people, active members include

**AIDS COALITION OF NOVA SCOTIA  
ADSUM HOUSE  
ADSUM Court  
Alice Housing  
CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSN.—DARTMOUTH BRANCH  
CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND  
COMMUNITY ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS  
CONNECTIONS CLUBHOUSE  
CORNERSTONE FAMILY CENTRE  
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