

Manitoba

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Employment and Income Assistance:

There are 3 categories:

- EIA for General Assistance
- EIA for Single Parents
- EIA for Persons with Disabilities

EIA provides benefits (money) to help you with the costs of things like:

- food, clothing, personal and household needs
- basic dental, optical and prescription drugs
- health-related supplies or equipment not provided by other programs. Requests for these items are reviewed by the Disability and Health Supports Unit
- For people who are able to work, EIA will help them go back to work by providing supports to employment. Learn more about [EIA](#), and about service locations in [Winnipeg](#) and in [Rural and North regions](#).
- Rent Assist provides EIA recipients with benefits to help with their shelter and utility costs. (More information under Shelter subheading)

Specific Benefits Under EIA:

- **Addictions treatment** – help with some of the costs for treatment for an addiction (ex: travel, child care or shelter)
- **Ambulance service** – ambulance costs for an emergency
- **Chiropractic (back and spine) treatment** – help if you need more chiropractic appointments than are covered by Manitoba Health. Before EIA pays for extra costs, the

Chiropractic Review Panel must look at your request and approve payment before you make an appointment with the chiropractor.

- **Dental services** - basic dental care costs such as exams, cleaning and extractions. You are eligible for this benefit once you have received EIA for three months, unless you are an adult in the General Assistance category, in which case you must be on EIA for six months. In an emergency, you can get some benefits before the three- or six-month waiting period is over.
- **Eye (optical) services** - eye exam costs every two years; new glasses every three years; new lenses if your eyesight changes a lot. You are eligible for this benefit once they have received EIA for three months, except for adults in the General Assistance category, who must be on EIA for six months before they are eligible for optical services. In an emergency, some benefits may be available before the three- or six-month waiting period is over.
- **Foot care (podiatry) services** – podiatry or chiropody and approved foot care equipment and services
- **Hearing aids** – cost of hearing aids and repairs
- **Medical equipment and supplies** – costs for basic and essential medical equipment and supplies that are not covered under Home Care or any other health plan
- **Mobility equipment (devices) and repairs** – cost of approved items that are not covered by the Manitoba Wheelchair Program
- **Prescription drugs** – approved prescription medication costs. You will receive the same coverage as provided by Pharmacare, but you will not pay a deductible.
- **Phones for health or safety** – the cost of a phone, if recommended by a doctor for health or safety reasons
- **Prescription food supplements** – the cost of nutritional supplements if prescribed by a doctor
- **Prosthetic and orthotic devices** – cost of approved items that are not covered by Manitoba Health
- **Special diet allowance** – the cost of therapeutic (special) diets if needed because of a medical problem
- **Transportation for medical appointments** – the cost of getting to and from medical appointments
- **Winter boots** – up to \$100 every three years for winter boots if needed because of a medical problem
- **Additional costs for newborn children** – helps with the extra costs of a newborn baby (ex: crib, layette). Assistance may be up to \$250 for the first-born child and up to \$75 for each child after the first-born.
- **Appliance repairs** – help with the cost of repairs to a washing machine, refrigerator or stove
- **Beds and bedding** – help with the costs of beds and bedding (a mattress, box spring and frame for each person in the home every seven years; new bedding every three years)
- **Child care for employment, education and special needs** – help with child care costs when you work, are in school or training
- **Funeral service** – help for the cost of a funeral or service
- **Funeral transportation** – help with the cost of travelling to and from the funeral of an immediate family member

- **Home repairs** – help with the cost of needed home repairs if you own your home
- **Laundry costs** - help with the cost of using coin-operated laundry machines if you have no other way of doing your laundry and you are enrolled in the persons with disabilities category
- **Moving costs** – help with moving costs in special cases (ex: home is unsafe; a change in family size; finding lower rent; moving closer to a job or training)
- **Northern energy costs** – helps cover the higher cost of electricity, fuel, etc. in northern and remote communities
- **Replacing identification (for reasons approved by EIA)** – if identification is lost, stolen, or destroyed, EIA may cover the cost of getting new identification cards (for health, social services, funding, getting or keeping a job)
- **Restaurant meals** – helps cover the cost of meals if you can't store or cook food in your home (ex: you live in a unit without a fridge or hot plate)
- **School supplies for dependent children** – covers some of the cost of school supplies for dependent children (under 18) who go to school full-time. The amount of assistance depends on the age of the child; \$60/year for 5 – 11 year olds, \$80/year for 12-13 year olds and \$100/year for 14 – 17 year olds.
- **Security deposits** – covers some of the cost for damage or security deposits for your home
- **Start-up allowance** – if furnishings are not included in the rent, a one-time payment of up to \$500 can help with the cost of basic furnishings - available only if:
 - your furnishings were accidentally ruined (ex: fire, flood)
 - you have a disability and are moving from an institution or from your parents' home (ex: basic or special furniture for your room)
 - you are a separated single parent and cannot get any of the furnishings from your other home
 - you are a new single parent, moving out of your parents' home into your own (ex: basic furnishings to get started)
- **Transportation to get children to child care** – may cover the cost of transportation for your children to get to and from child care when you work or are in school or for other reasons approved by EIA
- **Wheelchair transportation for social activities** – helps with the costs of transportation for social activities (ex: shopping, religious services, community events, visiting) if you use a wheelchair
- **Single Grants for Medical Equipment and Supplies**
- If you can pay for your basic living costs, but cannot afford to pay for your or your family's health needs, you may be eligible for health care costs.

Eligibility:

You must live in Manitoba and be in financial need.

You may be eligible for assistance if the total cost of your or your family's monthly basic needs and housing costs are more than your total financial resources.

Based on:

- the number of people in your family, their ages and relationships to each other
- the EIA basic allowance rate for your family size

- the cost of some of your ongoing health needs
- For more information on EIA and Rent Assist eligibility and benefits that you may receive, please look at the EIA brochure that best fits your household situation.

HOW:

- All Manitobans can apply for EIA.
- Set up a Pre-Intake Orientation (needed before EIA application)
- Please call:
- 204-948-4000 if you are in Winnipeg
- If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, call 1-800-855-0511 (Manitoba Relay Service);
- 1-855-944-8111 (toll free) if you are outside of Winnipeg

Children:

Child Care Subsidy

The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Program provides financial support to eligible families to help with the cost of child care for children from 12 weeks to 12 years attending licensed early learning and child care centres or homes.

Eligibility:

- depends on various factors including income;
- the number and age of your children;
- the number of days required for childcare;
- and the reason childcare is needed.

HOW: use the Subsidy Eligibility Estimator to help you find the amount you can possibly get.

Online: you must first register. When you register, a user name and password will be provided to you. Registration allows you to save and view your application for up to 30 days. Register or log in to your Subsidy Application

Manitoba Child Benefit

The Manitoba Child Benefit provides monthly benefits to lower income Manitobans with dependent children in their care. Up to \$35.00 per month, per child.

Eligibility:

- Resident of Manitoba
- Have dependent children under the age of 18 who are in your care
- In receipt of Canada Child Benefits for dependent children*
- Family income is below a specific level and is based on the previous year's income
- CANNOT be in receipt of Employment and Income Assistance unless you are ONLY receiving the health benefits portion of EIA.

- The Manitoba Child Benefit is paid through direct deposit. Download a MCB direct deposit form here.

HOW:

download a printable PDF version of the [guidelines for completing the MCB application](#), and then fill out and mail in the a printable PDF version of the [MCB application](#).

Call 204-948-7368 for more information

Children's Opti-Care Program

The Children's Opti-Care Program helps families, who receive the [Manitoba Child Benefit \(MCB\)](#), pay some of the cost of their children's glasses. Benefit is about \$84 per child, per year. If your child has special vision needs, the benefits may be more.

Eligibility:

- be a resident of Manitoba
- have children under the age of 18 who live with you
- get the Manitoba Child Benefit for the child who needs the glasses

You may **not** get benefits through this program if:

- you have coverage for glasses under any other health insurance program (ex: Rewarding Work Health Plan, First Nations Insured Health Benefits, Manitoba Blue Cross)
- you make a claim more than 14 months after the glasses were paid for

HOW: you must fill out a [Children's Opti-Care Claim Form](#) and send it to:

Manitoba Child Benefit – Children's Opti-Care Program
Provincial Services
100 – 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4
Phone: 204-948-7368
Toll Free: 1-877-587-6224
Email: incsup@gov.mb.ca

Seniors:

55 PLUS - A Manitoba Income Supplement

The 55 PLUS Program provides quarterly benefits to lower-income Manitobans who are 55 years of age and over.

Benefits: \$161.80 for a single person and \$173.90 to each eligible person in a married or common law relationship.

55 PLUS Junior Component – Partial benefits are available to single people with an annual income up to \$9,746.40 and couples with an annual family income up to \$16,255.20.

55 PLUS Senior Component – Benefits are based on family composition, net family income and the type and level of benefits you receive under the federal Old Age Security program.

Eligibility:

- Applicants may be eligible if they are 55 years of age or older
- live in Manitoba
- have a valid Manitoba Health registration number and an income within the allowable ranges. Your net income from the previous tax year is used to determine if you are eligible.
- Persons who receive Employment and Income Assistance are **NOT** eligible for 55 PLUS benefits. However, those who receive only the health care benefits portion of income assistance may be eligible.

HOW:

If you receive benefits from the federal Old Age Security program, you do not need to apply as it will be automatic.

Download a printable [55 PLUS - A Manitoba Income Supplement Application form](#). You can print the form, complete it and either bring it to our office or fax it to the number provided.

Provincial Services

100 – 114 Garry Street

Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4

Phone: 204-948-7368

Toll Free: 1-877-587-6224

Email: incsup@gov.mb.ca

School Tax Assistance for Tenants 55 Plus (STAT 55+)

Provides \$175 once a year to eligible tenants over the age of 55 to offset the school tax portion of rent costs.

Eligibility:

- be at least 55 years of age;
- be a renter in Manitoba;
- have a combined net income of less than \$23,800;
- have claimed rent on the MB479 (Education Property Tax Credit) on the previous year's income tax return; and
- not live in non-profit housing for the elderly or in projects licensed under [The Elderly and Infirm Persons' Housing Act](#) because rent in these housing units does not include school tax costs.

HOW:

Stat 55 Plus application form - fillable (PDF) - Complete this fillable application to apply for the current application year or if you are applying for only one previous tax year.

For further help: call 1-877-587-6224
204 - 945- 2197
incsup@gov.mb.ca

Stat 55 Plus application information sheet (PDF) - This document explains in detail the eligibility criteria and how to complete the application form.

Housing:

Manitoba Housing - Social Housing

Provides low-income Manitobans in the greatest need with subsidized housing.

- Access to shelter for low income households in core housing need
- A subsidy that is the difference between the market rent for unit and the rent the tenant pays. The rent a tenant pays is based on a percentage of total gross household income. This is commonly referred to as Rent-Geared-To-Income (RGI).
- A rent based on a percentage of income that does not exceed the affordability benchmark set by CMHC.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- Be in core housing need;
- Be either a Canadian Citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, a refugee claimant or have legal status to live and/or work in Canada;
- Have total adjusted household income at or below the Social Housing Rental Program Income Limits established by Manitoba Housing

HOW:

Obtain and complete all sections of the application (PDF) and ensure that the information you provide is correct. You can request that a paper copy of the application form be mailed to you by completing an online request form or by calling 204-945-4663 or 1-800-661-4663. You can also pick up a copy of the application form at any Manitoba Housing office.

Submit your completed application:

Mail to:
Manitoba Housing
352 Donald Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2H8
OR

Drop off the completed form to any Manitoba Housing office.

Rent Assist

Eligibility:

RECEIVING EIA: will be included when you apply

Amount based on:

- rental costs
- mortgage payments, taxes and other fees for those who own their own home
- the number of people in the family
- if the family lives in Manitoba Housing, has other subsidized housing benefits or is paying rent in unsubsidized housing
- whether utility costs (ex: heat, electricity, water) are included in the rent

NOT RECEIVING EIA:

- pay rent or room and board for unsubsidized housing
- have a net annual income of less than \$23,040 for a single person, or \$25,280 for a single person 55 years of age or older, or a person who qualifies for the Disability Tax Credit or receive Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits, \$28,400 for two people, \$35,840 for three or four people and \$45,320 for five or more people
- have dependent children in your home and have a net annual income of less than \$35,840 for two to four people, or \$45,320 for five or more people
- are a Canadian citizen, or a permanent resident of Canada.

Do not qualify if:

- they rent their home from Manitoba Housing
- they, or the unit they live in, gets any other kind of housing benefit or subsidy
- they live on a First Nations reserve
- they live in a nursing home, hospital or residential care facility
- they live in student housing

HOW:

The **Rent Assist Estimator** can also help households see if they may have eligibility for Rent Assist.

To apply for non-EIA Rent Assist, you can download an application form, or call Provincial Services at 204-948-7368 in Winnipeg; 1-877-587-6224 toll free; or TTY 204-948-3698 to have an application form mailed to you.

If you apply for EIA benefits, your eligibility for Rent Assist will be assessed. To apply for EIA, call 1-800-855-0511 or see details in the EIA section of this package)