

Newfoundland

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Income Support Benefits

BASIC BENEFITS:

- Family and Individual Benefit (to assist with expenses such as food, clothing, personal care, household maintenance and utilities)
- Shelter (Including rent and mortgage)

NON-BASIC BENEFITS:

- Municipal Tax Payments
- Eye Exams and Prescription Glasses
- Private Childcare (related to employment or training)
- Expenses for Burials

Extra:

- A Prescription Drug Card offered by the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP); if you require drug card coverage only.
- Medical Supplies and Medical Equipment offered by the Special Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Community Services.
- Medical Transportation offered through the Department of Health and Community Services

Eligibility:

- Be 18 years of age;
- Be a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- Submit an application for benefits;
- Be determined eligible according to a financial assessment.

HOW: visit [Applying for Income Support](#)

The quickest way to apply for Income Support is to complete a telephone application by contacting the appropriate toll free # for your region:

Avalon
Department of Immigration, Skills and Labour
Toll-free: 1-877-729-7888
TTY: 1-877-292-4205

Central
Department of Immigration, Skills and Labour
Toll-free: 1-888-632-4555
TTY: 1-877-292-4205

Western
Department of Immigration, Skills and Labour
Toll-free: 1-866-417-4753
TTY: 1-877-292-4205

Labrador
Department of Immigration, Skills and Labour
Toll-free: 1-866-449-3144
TTY: 1-877-292-4205

The Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit (NLCB)

Eligibility:

- This is a provincial tax credit for families whose income is less than \$25,467 and have children under 18 years of age
- If your net family income is below \$17,397, you will receive the full benefit; however, there will be a reduced amount if your family income is between \$17,397 & \$25,467. This amount is based on your family income from the previous year. Payments run from July to June and are issued by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
- In addition, you can receive the Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement, (\$60 a month) if your child is below the age of one or you are pregnant.

How Much NLCB Can I Receive?

| Family Size | Maximum NLCB Benefits Effective | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| | Monthly Total | Yearly Total |
| 1 Child | \$34.08 | \$409 |
| 2 Children | \$70.25 | \$843 |
| 3 Children | \$109.08 | \$1309 |
| 4 Children | \$150.75 | \$1809 |

HEALTH

- Vision Care
- Prescription Drug Program
- Medical Transportation
- Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Dental Services
- Technical Assistance Devices
- Special Diet Allowance

Vision Care

EYE EXAM

The Department will contribute \$55 towards the cost of a routine eye exam once every 12 months for children and once every 36 months for adults.

EYE GLASSES

A contribution towards the cost of glasses will be provided once every 36 months for adults and once every 12 months for children unless there is medical verification for a more frequent change. The maximum amount that the Department will pay is:

- \$125.00 for single vision lens
- \$175.00 for bi-focal

Prescription Drug Program

The Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) Card is provided to you and your family while receiving Income Support. It covers the total cost of eligible prescription medications, including dispensing fees. If you have private health insurance this card can also cover the percentage that your private insurance may not. Should you leave the Income Support caseload due to employment, a drug card can be issued for an extended 12 month period.

Medical Transportation

The Income Support program no longer covers medical transportation. This service is now provided by the Department of Health and Community Services. Income Support recipients may be eligible for medical transportation assistance and information relating to eligibility can be obtained by calling 1-833-729-6106 or faxing the required information to 729-1918.

Income Support clients requiring ambulance travel, need only to produce their valid Ambulance/Dental Services card to the ambulance attendant. This card is provided with the Income Support cheque stubs at the beginning of each month.

Medical Equipment and Supplies

This Department determines eligibility for artificial limbs and other medical equipment and supplies provided through the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS). Supplies include such items as glucose monitoring aids, bath aid equipment and wheelchairs. Further information on these services can be obtained by contacting the toll free number for your region.

Dental Services

The Provincial Dental Health Plan is administered by the Newfoundland Medical Care Commission (MCP) which has two programs under HCS:

- Children's Dental Health Program: this universal program provides services for all children up to and including 12 years of age, and for children 13 to 17 years old whose

families are in receipt of Income Support benefits or the Access Plan. Eligible coverage includes fillings, extractions and examinations every two years.

- Adult Dental Health Program: Adults in receipt of Income Support benefits are eligible for an initial exam, two diagnostic x-rays, routine fillings and extractions once every three years. 'Standard Dentures' are also available once every eight years. For further information, please visit [Department of Health and Community Services](#) Opens in new window.

Technical Assistance Devices

If you are deaf or hard of hearing we can provide you with a one time only purchase for any of the following services:

- 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 is not covered. Verification of your medical condition is required and 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 due to a particular medical condition, such as diabetes. Depending on the 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.

For more information on these services please contact [the toll free # for your region](#).

Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Care Plan (MCP)

MCP covers the cost of insured medical services for residents of the province, including immigrants and foreign students. For people covered by MCP, the Newfoundland Hospital Insurance Plan provides coverage for insured hospital services.

For more information or to apply for a MCP card:

Avalon 1.866.449.4459

All other areas including Labrador 1.800.563.1557

Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP)

The NLPDP offers financial assistance for eligible prescription medications for residents. There are four main plans under the program:

- The Foundation Plan
- The Access Plan
- The Assurance Plan
- The 65 Plus Plan
- Select Needs Plan

The Foundation Plan - The Foundation Plan provides 100 per cent coverage of eligible prescription medications for individuals and/or families who are receiving the following services:

- Income Support benefits through the Advanced Education, Skills and Labour
- Long-Term Care or Personal Care Homes subsidies
- Community Supports through Regional Health Authorities
- Children in the care of the Child, Seniors, and Social Development including Youth Services and Youth Corrections

HOW: automatic

The Access Plan - The Access Plan provides individuals and families with low incomes access to eligible prescription medications. Eligibility and a client's contribution toward their medication costs are determined by net income levels and family status.

Applicants must have a valid MCP number. All applications must have a current tax return completed and processed by the Canada Revenue Agency.

HOW:

An application form is required. Applications are available at most pharmacies and doctor offices. You may also call NLPDP to have an application mailed to you.

Toll free: 1.888.859.3535

Form- gov.nl.ca/health/forms/pdf/nlpdp_application.pdf

The Assurance Plan - The Assurance Plan provides prescription medication coverage to individuals and/or families with high drug costs where eligible drug costs exceed:

- 5 per cent of net income for those who earn below \$40,000
- 7.5 per cent of net income for those who earn from \$40,000 to under \$75,000
- 10 per cent of net income for those who earn from \$75,000 to under \$150,000

Eligibility: Applicants must have a valid MCP number. All applicants must have a current tax return completed and processed by the Canada Revenue Agency.

An application form is required in addition to providing a 12-month pharmacy printout dated from the time of application for all persons listed on the application. Applications are available at most pharmacies and doctor offices. You may also call NLPDP to have an application mailed to you.

Toll free: 1.888.859.3535

Form- gov.nl.ca/health/forms/pdf/nlpdp_application.pdf

The 65 Plus Plan - This plan provides coverage of eligible prescription drugs to residents 65 years of age and older who receive Old Age Security benefits (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

Beneficiaries pay the dispensing fee up to a maximum of \$6.

HOW: automatic

Please Note: Landed immigrants who live in Newfoundland and Labrador and are 65 years of age or older can request an application form by calling: T: 709.643.5421 Toll free: 1.888.859.3535

The Select Needs Plan - Covers 100 per cent of disease-specific medications and supplies for people with Cystic Fibrosis and Growth Hormone Deficiency.

HOW - automatic

Dental Health Plan

For all children aged 12 and under, this plan pays for basic procedures such as examinations (every six months), cleanings and fluoride treatment (every 12 months), routine fillings and extractions, X-rays (limited) and sealants.

For children aged 13-17 years, in families who are enrolled in the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) (page 43), Foundation and Access Plans, the plan pays for examinations (every 24 months), X-rays (limited), routine fillings and extractions and emergency examinations. Cleanings are not covered.

For adults enrolled in the NLPDP - Foundation Plan, this plan pays for basic procedures including examinations and routine fillings, extractions and standard dentures (every eight years). Routine fillings have an annual cap of \$300. Fillings in excess of the \$300 will be the financial responsibility of the patient. The annual cap refreshes April 1st, of each year.

Toll free:

1.800.440.4405 (Dental Service)

1.888.859.3535 (Eligibility and Dental Letters) gov.nl.ca/health/dentalservices/general_info.html

DISABILITY

Registered Disabilities Savings Plans - Funds in a Registered Disability Savings Plan (up to \$200,000) are exempt from income and asset assessment for Income Support clients who require supportive services (i.e. living with a disability). These accumulated funds will not affect eligibility for Income Support benefits.

Special Child Welfare Allowance Program - This program provides financial help to families with a child with a disability under 18 years of age. It helps cover the costs of disability-related items and services. Needs are determined through a clinical and financial assessment.

Support Trusts - A Support Trust is a trust fund where the amount and interest, up to a maximum of \$100,000, are exempt when determining eligibility for Income Support provided by Advanced Education, Skills and Labour and disability supports provided by Health and Community Services. A Support Trust may be set-up on behalf of a person with a disability over the age of 18 years who requires supportive services. To support residents of the province to set up a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), the province provides funding to Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Community Living (NLACL) for an incentive program to increase the value of the RDSP for all those who apply.

For information, contact NLACL at 1.800.701.8511 or nlacl.ca

Accessible Vehicle Funding

- provides maximum funding of \$25,000;
- is income tested to determine applicants' financial eligibility;
- provides 100 % funding up to \$25,000 to eligible applicants with annual net incomes of \$46,500 or less;
- provides partial funding for eligible applicants with annual net incomes between \$46,500 and \$64,000;

HOW:

Applications can be downloaded from the government website at http://www.cssd.gov.nl.ca/disabilities/accessible_vehicle_funding.html

For help contact:

Email: accessiblevehicle@gov.nl.ca

Telephone: (709) 729-6048

Toll-free: (888) 729-6279

HOUSING

Rental Housing Program

The Rental Housing Program helps households with low income that cannot obtain suitable and affordable rental housing on the private market. You may be able to access low-income rental housing if:

- your total household income falls within certain income levels;
- your present housing is adequate but you pay more than 30 per cent of your total household income towards rent and heat;
- your present housing is unsuitable, you pay less than 30 per cent of your total household income for rent; however, suitable housing in your area would cost 30 per cent or more of your total household income

Provincial Home Repair Program - This program provides money to assist homeowners with low income who require repairs to their homes. The repairs bring houses up to minimum fire and life safety standards, with improvements in basic heating, electrical and plumbing services.

HOW - For more information, contact your regional NLHC office.

Home Modification Program - This program provides funding to assist homeowners with low-to-moderate income who need accessibility changes to their homes.

Shelter Benefit - Income Support clients receive an amount for board and lodging, rent, or mortgage. Eligibility is based on the individual's income.

Basic Board and Lodging Supplement- This supplement provides financial assistance to adults with disabilities who need more than basic Income Support benefits to live with relatives or non-relatives. It is available to adults with eligible psychiatric, physical and/ or intellectual disabilities (aged 18-64) who are eligible for, or in receipt of, board and lodging benefits from AESL.

Personal Care Homes Subsidy - This subsidy provides a monthly subsidy to eligible persons who are moving into a personal care home.

For more information on Basic Board and Lodging Supplement or Personal Care Home Subsidy contact your Regional Health Authority office

Residential Options - Disability

Residential options are available to adults with disabilities who meet program criteria and are unable to reside with the natural family. These include:

1. Cooperative Apartment Program

This program offers a private residential setting operated by an incorporated community board of directors and staffed by a live-in supervisor and relief staff. The private residences are usually rented houses and are shared by up to three adults with intellectual disabilities. The main emphasis is on skill teaching and support to enable more independent living rather than providing a permanent residence.

2. Alternative Family Care Home Program

This program offers private homes which have been approved by the Regional Health Authority for the purpose of providing room and board, supervision and personal and social support for up to two unrelated adults with intellectual disabilities in a family atmosphere. Supports and services are available as necessary. Monitoring and supervision is provided by the social worker assigned by the Regional Health Authority.

3. Board and Lodging Supplement

A Board and Lodging Supplement is a funding supplement that is available, based on assessed need, to an adult with psychiatric, physical and/or intellectual disabilities, 18 years of age and older, who reside with relatives or non-relatives. These adults have identified needs and require a higher board and lodging rate to live in these arrangements than is usually allowed. The basic rate of board and lodging is available through HRLE and the supplement is available through the RHAs.

4. Individualized Living Arrangements

An individualized living arrangement (ILA) is established when no other service option is available or appropriate for an adult with an intellectual disability, meeting home support criteria and unable to reside with their natural family. While this program usually supports one client per home, there may be situations approved where the living arrangements are shared by individuals who wish to reside together. The funding for basic income support is provided by the Department of Human Resources Labor and Employment with additional funding for home support and other related costs provided by the RHAs. Once established, the ILAs are managed by the individual, family, or operations committee.

5. Shared Living Arrangements

In some instances individuals with disabilities who require high level of home support may choose to share the cost of a living arrangement and home support staff. Funding may be provided from several sources such as the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (HRLE) and the Regional Health Authorities (RHA). As in an individual living arrangement all benefits of income support including rent and heat and light supplements, and any other benefits available, are obtained from HRLE and supplemented as per policy by RHAs.

HOW: For more information on accessing this service contact your regional health authority

OTHER:

Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors' Benefit

This is a refundable tax credit for seniors who have a low income. The benefit is based on family net income from the previous year.

To qualify, a person must be 65 years of age by December 31 of the taxation year. No application is required but seniors must file an income tax return.

T: T: 709.729.3166 (Tax Policy)

Toll free: 1.800.959.8281 (Canada Revenue Agency)

taxpolicy@gov.nl.ca

www.fin.gov.nl.ca/fin/tax_programs_incentives/personal/income_supplement

Victims of Violence - Assistance Allowance

The allowance is available to individuals leaving a violent relationship who are eligible for Income Support. This allowance helps with the costs of setting up a new home, where the person is unable to get the necessary items from their own home.

For more information, contact your regional AESL office

JOB BENEFITS

- You may be eligible for additional funding to assist with certain expenses when going to work.
- You may be eligible for a job start benefit of \$250 (if you have dependants) or \$125 (if you are a single person).
- You may qualify for an earnings supplement. Certain exemptions will be allowed which will decrease the amount of earnings considered, and therefore increase your supplement. These exemptions include:
 - the first \$150.00 a month for a family; \$250 if you or someone in your family requires supportive services, plus 20% of your earnings balance;
 - the first \$75.00 a month for a single person; \$150 if you require supportive services, plus 20% of your earnings balance; and
 - expenses such as transportation and child care.

If you are interested in receiving more information about our programs and services to help you prepare for, find and keep a job, you may call the toll free number for your region or contact:

Department of Immigration, Skills and Labour

Toll-free: 1-800-563-6600

TTY: 1-877-292-4205

Fax: 1-709-256-5709

Email: LMCIHotline@gov.nl.ca

Job Start Benefit - This benefit helps with the cost of starting a job and is available to people receiving Income Support. Verification of employment is required. This benefit is limited to once in a 12-month period.

For more information contact your regional AESL office