

Prince Edward Island

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Social Assistance Program

The Social Assistance Program helps you meet your basic needs when you cannot. The program provides help on a case-by-case basis to people who meet the requirements.

Social Assistance will assist you in paying for:

- food
- shelter
- medications
- basic dental
- glasses
- funeral costs

HOW: please contact the Social Assistance Program. Call toll-free in Prince Edward Island: 1-877-569-0546

Summer Food Security Program

The Department of Social Development and Housing is offering food support for Island families in need. If your family is facing challenges securing healthy food, this program can help. We provide pre-cooked, reheatable meals for children that are delivered directly to your home.

Eligibility: Any family facing challenges with food security is eligible to receive meals for children. Children must be able to consume solid food.

HOW: Applications are accepted online here:

<https://services.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/register-summer-food-security-program#/> .

You do not have to re-register for the program every week, you will continue to receive meals until the program ends on September 3rd or you cancel your participation.

For help contact Summer Food Security Program

Phone: 902-213-5506

Email: foodprogram@gov.pe.ca

Housing

Housing Assistance - Housing assistance provides low income Islanders with appropriate housing at a reduced cost. For qualified applicants, this might be renting a social housing unit or receiving a rent supplement that reduces the cost for rental market housing. The program is needs-based with priority given to those assessed to be in the greatest need.

Family Housing Program - The Family Housing Program provides quality rental housing units for Island families and individuals with low incomes, poor housing conditions or other special circumstances that create a need for assistance and who may not otherwise be able to obtain adequate housing.

HOW: Apply for Family Housing online

Seniors Housing Program

Eligibility:

- Aged 60 and older, or
- 55 and older and have a disability.
- You will be chosen based on your income, assets, health, age and present housing.

HOW: Apply online

PEI Home Renovation Program

The PEI Home Renovation Program provides financial assistance to qualifying Islanders to help cover the cost of major structural renovations to their homes. Eligible applicants may receive up to a maximum \$12,000 for eligible renovations to the structure, heating, plumbing, and electrical systems or to improve life safety. Or in the case of an applicant with a permanent disability, up to a maximum \$16,000 may be available if the renovations improve the accessibility of the house.

Eligibility:

- you are a PEI resident (have a PEI Health Card) and a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident;
- your combined income is \$50,000 or less;
- the property is your **principle residence** and you currently reside in the home;
- you are an owner of the property or have a life interest in the property;
- your property value is \$300,000 or less;
- you have not met the maximum grant through previous applications to the PEI Home Renovation Programs.

HOW:

Fill in the application for the PEI Home Renovation Program with all relevant details. Sign the declaration acknowledging your understanding of the program rules, and sign the CRA consent section (in the application) authorizing proof of income. Prioritize your requests (in the application) to renovations that meet your greatest need, as funding is limited (see maximum grant scale below). Any incomplete applications will not be processed.

Send your completed application to **PEI Home Renovation Programs (PEI HRP):**

- Email: homereno@gov.pe.ca(link sends e-mail)
- Fax: (902) 368-3394
- In person or by mail: Sherwood Business Centre, 161 St. Peter's Road, Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
- Or drop off, at any Access PEI location.

Have questions about the programs? Call: (902) 368-4889 or Toll Free 1-855-374-7366

Seniors Home Repair Program to help with the cost of repairs to your home. You could receive up to a maximum of \$4,000 in assistance for eligible repairs like a roof, windows and doors, or a furnace.

Eligibility:

- you are age 60 or over at the time of application;
- you are a PEI resident (have a PEI Health Card) and a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident;
- your combined income is \$50,000 or less;
- the property is your **principle residence** and you currently reside in the home;
- you are an owner of the property or have a life interest in the property;
- your property value is \$300,000 or less;
- you have not met the maximum grant through previous applications to the PEI Home Renovation Programs.

HOW: (same as the previous program)

Fill in the application for the PEI Home Renovation Programs with all relevant details. Sign the declaration acknowledging your understanding of the program rules, and sign the CRA consent

section (in the application) authorizing proof of income. Prioritize your requests (in the application) to renovations that meet your greatest need, as funding is limited (see maximum grant scale below). Any incomplete applications will not be processed.

Send your completed application to **PEI Home Renovation Programs (PEI HRP):**

- Email: homereno@gov.pe.ca(link sends e-mail)
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Health

Generic Drug Program - The Prince Edward Island Generic Drug Program is for Islanders under the age of 65 who do not have insurance. The program limits out-of-pocket costs for eligible generic prescription drugs to a maximum cost of \$19.95.

Eligibility:

- have no private drug insurance coverage;
- are a permanent PEI resident as defined by the *Drug Cost Assistance Act*;
- are under 65 years of age;
- hold a valid PEI Health Card; and
- have completed an application and have been approved for coverage.

HOW: You can apply for the Generic Drug Program by completing an application online or in person at Access PEI locations, pharmacies, physician offices, or pharmacare offices.

Family Health Benefit Drug Program - which helps cover the cost of approved prescription medications for you and your children if they are under the age of 19 or under the age of 25 and a full-time student.

Eligibility:

- are a permanent PEI resident as defined by the *Drug Cost Assistance Act*;
- have a valid PEI Health Card; and
- are a low-income family supporting at least one child in the approved age categories.

HOW:

1. Submit a completed Family Health Benefit Application form [PDF]
2. If you are including a dependant under the age of 25 who is a full-time student, proof of enrolment from the educational institution **must** accompany your application.

3. If joint custody of the qualifying child exists, both parents may apply to the program.

Help for Child Care Expenses

The Child Care Subsidy Program assists Islanders with the cost of child care and daycare services for children up to and including 12 year-olds.

Eligibility - Assistance is available for Islanders who are working, attending school or at home - depending on your situation and income level. The program is flexible and offers a range of options for support.

Use the online [Child Care Subsidy Calculator](#) to see if you may be eligible

HOW: Contact the child care subsidy office at 1-877-569-0546 for more information or to set up an appointment.

Nutrition Services Program - If you are pregnant and have a nutritional deficiency, you may be eligible for coverage of approved nutritional supplement costs through the Nutrition Services Program.

Eligibility:

- have a PEI Health Card, and are a:
- high-risk pregnant woman receiving service from a community nutritionist; or
- low-income pregnant woman receiving, or in need of, financial assistance.

HOW: The community nutritionist must request nutritional supplements from the Provincial Pharmacy on your behalf.

For help call - Telephone: (902) 368-4947 and Toll free: 1-877-577-3737

Specific Programs

You may be eligible for coverage or cost assistance of approved medications and supplies if you meet the financial criteria, or if you have a medical condition identified in one of the following Drug Programs:

- Cystic Fibrosis Drug Program - The Cystic Fibrosis Drug Program covers the full cost of approved prescription and non-prescription medications.
- Diabetes Drug Program - The Diabetes Drug Program provides assistance toward the cost of approved medications and supplies.
- Erythropoietin Drug Program - The Erythropoietin Drug Program covers the cost of treatment for anemia so that individuals with chronic renal failure or who are on kidney dialysis will not require frequent blood transfusions.
- Growth Hormone Drug Program - The Growth Hormone Drug Program covers the cost of approved growth hormone supplements for approved clients.

- Hepatitis Drug Program - The Hepatitis Drug Program covers the cost of approved medications for approved individuals diagnosed with hepatitis, or in close contact to someone who has hepatitis.
- High Cost Drug Program - The High Cost Drug Program helps pay for approved medications of certain illnesses. Coverage is based on household income.

The program assists the following medical conditions:

- Ankylosing Spondylitis;
 - Cancer;
 - Crohn's Disease;
 - Multiple Sclerosis;
 - Plaque Psoriasis;
 - Pulmonary Hypertension;
 - Psoriatic Arthritis;
 - Rheumatoid Arthritis; and
 - Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration.
- HIV Drug Program - The HIV Drug Program covers the full cost for eligible HIV medications.
 - Home Oxygen Program - The Home Oxygen Program subsidizes the cost of eligible expenses related to using prescribed oxygen at home.
 - Insulin Pump Program - The Insulin Pump Program provides coverage of approved medications and supplies for PEI residents under the age of 25 who require an insulin pump to manage their diabetes. Coverage is based on household income.
 - Meningitis Drug Program - At the Chief Public Health Officer's request, the Meningitis Drug Program will provide coverage of approved medications to treat meningitis.
 - Nursing Home Drug Program - The Nursing Home Drug Program provides coverage of approved medications for residents in any community care facility.
 - Ostomy Supplies Program- The Ostomy Supplies Program assists with the costs associated with a permanent ostomy.
 - Phenylketonuria (PKU) Supplement Program - The Phenylketonuria (PKU) Supplement Program provides coverage of approved nutritional supplements to treat PKU through a community nutritionist.
 - Quit Smoking Program - The Quit Smoking Program provides coverage of approved medications through the Smoking Cessation Program.
 - Rabies Vaccine Program - The Rabies Vaccine Program provides coverage of rabies vaccinations at all hospitals across Prince Edward Island.
 - Sexually Transmitted Disease Drug Program - The Sexually Transmitted Disease Drug Program covers the cost for approved medications to treat sexually transmitted diseases.
 - Transplant Anti-rejection Drug Program - The Transplant Anti-rejection Drug Program will cover the cost of approved immunosuppressant medications for transplant patients.
 - Tuberculosis Drug Program - The Tuberculosis Drug Program will cover the cost of approved medications to treat and prevent tuberculosis.

HOW: speak to your physician for a referral

For help contact:

PEI Pharmacare
16 Fitzroy Street
Sullivan Building
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Telephone: (902) 368-4947

Toll free: 1-877-577-3737

Disability

Autism Funding

Preschool autism funding is available to help parents and licensed early childhood centres to hire an Autism Assistant for children receiving Intensive Behavioural Intervention (I.B.I.) support.

Preschool autism funding may be provided to help offset Autism Assistant wages and benefits to a maximum of \$13.18 per hour of service, up to 25 hours per week. This includes 12.59% of the funded amount to cover mandatory employer-related costs of Canada Pension, Employment Insurance, Worker's Compensation, and Vacation Pay.

School-age autism funding is available to help parents and designated community-based organizations to help offset the costs of hiring one-on-one tutors and aides in home and group settings.

School-age autism funding may cover up to \$6600 in tutor/aide services per year. You, or the designated organization, determine the number of hours and rate of pay.

Eligibility:

- Preschool children with a diagnosed autism spectrum disorder, who are enrolled in the Early Years Autism Service, may be eligible for preschool autism funding.
- School-age children (until the day of graduation) with a diagnosed autism spectrum disorder, who are enrolled in a public or private school, may be eligible for school-age autism funding. The child must require the support of an adult to access community-based activities and/or tutoring outside of school hours.

HOW:

1. Preschool autism funding - Complete an application for preschool autism funding after your child has been assessed by an Early Years Autism Specialist. Include the intended start date for

services, whether you or an early childhood centre will employ the Autism Assistant, and documentation on your child's autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Submit the application to the Autism Funding Coordinator.

2. School-age autism funding - Identify a tutor or aide to work with your child and agree on a wage rate, or identify an organization that will employ a tutor or aide. Complete an application for school-age autism funding, including information about the tutor/aide or the organization that will employ the tutor/aide, the wage rate, and documentation of your child's autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Submit the application to the Autism Funding Administrator.

For help call:

Preschool Autism Funding
Tel: 902-438-4854
Fax: 902-438-4874

School-age Autism Funding
Toll-free: 1-888-482-5330
Fax: 902-368-4720

AccessAbility Supports -

- support for all disabilities including physical, intellectual, neurological, sensory and mental, based on an assessment;
- a new assessment tool to help better understand how the disability affects activities of daily living to ensure appropriate support is provided;
- a supports coordinator to navigate all available support services and develop a personalized plan to meet individual needs;
- increased supports for finding or keeping a job including coaching and skills training;
- increased financial help for home and vehicle modifications required because of a disability - \$10,000 every 10 years for home (was \$2,000 in a lifetime) and \$6,000 every 8 years for a vehicle (was \$2,000 in a lifetime); and
- a single point of contact by calling a toll-free number for easier access to support.

HOW:

You will meet with a staff person who will conduct an assessment to determine how disability affects your daily life and how AccessAbility Supports can help meet your needs.

If you are a current disability support client, you will be automatically enrolled in AccessAbility Supports.

TYPES OF SUPPORTS:

Personal Supports

- life skills training in areas like meal preparation, budgeting, grocery shopping, recreational activities;
- technical aids and assistive devices such as a wheel chair; and
- supports that enable an individual to be self-sufficient and live independently such as in-home supports or personal care workers.

Housing Supports

- financial assistance for a caregiver to provide daily supervision and guidance in a community-based residential setting; and
- financial help for required home and vehicle modifications - \$10,000 every 10 years for home modifications and \$6,000 every eight years for a vehicle.

Community Supports

- assistance with finding or keeping a job including coaching, skills training, and supports for youth transitioning from the education system to the workforce; and
- supports to enable active participate in the community such as day programming, personal aid or specialized transportation.

Caregiver Supports

- respite for caregivers to allow for time for breaks to recharge; and
- support to provide supervision for adults who are unable to stay home alone safely so that caregivers can go to work or school.

Financial Supports

- assistance for basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, household and personal supplies through what is called Assured Income.

Questions? 1-877-569-0546

Autism funding support

Parents and licensed early childhood centres can access preschool autism funding to hire an Autism Assistant for children receiving I.B.I. support. Parents and designated community-based organizations can access school-age autism funding to offset the costs of hiring one-on-one tutors and aides in home and group settings.

Who can I contact for more information?

Early Years Autism Coordinator

Tel: (902) 368-4472

Fax: (902) 368-4622

Email: dmrochon@edu.pe.ca(link sends e-mail)

Severe Permanent Disability Benefit

If you have a severe permanent disability that prevents you from participating in post-secondary studies and the labour force for the rest of your life, you may be able to have your student loans cancelled through the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to apply for the PEI Severe Permanent Disability Benefit, you must be already approved for the Federal Severe Permanent Disability Benefit (which cancels your federal student loan).

How do I apply for Severe Permanent Disability Benefit?

1. Contact the National Student Loans Service Centre at 1-888-815-4514 to apply for the Federal Severe Permanent Disability Benefit.
2. Once you are approved for the Federal Severe Permanent Disability Benefit, then contact the PEI Student Loan office to apply for the provincial benefit. You will be required to complete an application and provide supporting documentation that you have been approved for the Federal Severe Permanent Disability Benefit.

Contact Information:

Telephone: (902) 368-4640

Fax: (902) 368-6144

Email: studentloan@gov.pe.ca(link sends e-mail)

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