

Social Assistance and You

Developed by the Community Advocates Network

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

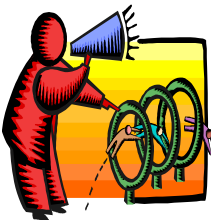
Special Needs

This section is about special needs, what they are and how to get them covered.

Special Needs are things you need that are not covered in basic needs. Some special needs such as transportation, telephone, special diets and medications are things you need every month. Others are things you need from time to time such as dental work and eyeglasses. Some will only be covered if you are working, ill or disabled, such as childcare.

To get **Special needs** you must prove that you have a need for them. For medical needs such as telephone, special diets, transportation, over-the-counter drugs, dental work, eyeglasses, you have to have a letter from a doctor or dentist. For employment-related needs, such as childcare and transportation, you must have a job and receipts. For shelter-related special needs, such as furniture, you must have a good reason why you need the items.

Advocacy Tip: You have a right to **Special Needs policies**. Ask your worker for a copy. All policies are on the Department of Community Services website



This is a list of things you can ask for.

Medical	Safety equipment, gear and tools	Shelter and Other
Special diets	Fees and dues	Emergency shelter
Dental care	Work-related courses	Emergency heat
Over-the-counter drugs	Short term training	Security deposits
Telephone	Personal hygiene and grooming supplies	House repairs
Transportation	Books and supplies	Fire/liability insurance
Eye exams	Personal development supports	Furnishings
Medical supplies and equipment	Disability-related equipment and supports	Extermination services
Comfort allowances	Employment aids	Property tax arrears
Child care	Psycho-educational assessments	Mortgage arrears
Special clothing	Other employment related costs	Utility arrears
		Moving expenses
		Funeral and burial expenses
Employment		
Transportation		
Child care		
Work related clothing		

You have a right to apply for these needs, but there is no guarantee you will get them. Sometimes you have to fight for them and/or appeal.

Community Advocates Network: 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
DALHOUSIE LEGAL AID SERVICE
DARTMOUTH FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE
DISABLED INDIVIDUALS ALLIANCE
FEEDING OTHERS OF DARTMOUTH
HALIFAX COALITION AGAINST POVERTY
MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL CLUB
METRO NON PROFIT HOUSING
METRO RESOURCE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
NORTH END COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
NS ASSN OF SOCIAL WORKERS
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