

Health Related Services

The following health related services and benefits are available through the Income Support Program of the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour (AESL).

Vision Care

Eye Examinations

Assistance with the cost of a routine eye examination will be considered upon request by the applicant/recipient of Income Support. The maximum contribution toward this cost will be \$55.00. Dependent children under 18 years of age are eligible to receive this service once every 12 months while adults are eligible once every 36 months.

Eye Glasses

Applicants/recipients may be eligible for a contribution towards the cost of eyeglasses, as prescribed by an optometrist or physician, subject to the following restrictions:

- \$125.00 for single vision lens; and
- \$175.00 for bi-focals.

Glasses will be provided at a maximum of once every three years for adults and once a year for children unless there is a medically substantiated reason by the optometrist or physician for a more frequent change. Financial support may be provided directly to assist with the cost, or clients may receive an Authorization for Service to bring to the company of their choice who will invoice the department directly at the prescribed rates.

Prescription Drug Program

This program provides a Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) Card to individuals and families who are receiving Income Support benefits. This card covers the total cost of eligible prescription medications, including dispensing fees. If clients have a private health insurance plan which covers a percentage of prescriptions, a drug card can be issued to offset the difference of approved drugs. If recipients leave Income Support due to employment, a drug card can be issued for an extended 12 month period.

Health Related Services (Cont'd)

Medical Transportation

Income Support clients may be eligible for medical travel through the Department of Health and Community Services. Applicants/recipients requiring assistance with medical travel must contact the Department of Health and Community Services at 1-833-729-6106.

In an emergency situation requiring the services of an ambulance, eligible recipients are required only to produce their valid Ambulance/Dental Services card to the ambulance attendant.

Medical Equipment and Supplies

Applicants/recipients may be eligible for medical equipment and/or supplies provided through the Special Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Community Services. Supplies include, but are not limited to, such items as incontinent supplies, oxygen and wheelchairs. The Special Assistance Program determines the type of equipment and supplies which are covered. More information about the services provided can be obtained by contacting the nearest AESL Office.

Hearing Aids/Prosthetics and Orthotics

Income Support clients are financially eligible for these benefits and an authorization will be forwarded to Health and Community Services once medical documentation requesting such service is provided.

Any resident of this province can apply to AESL to have an assessment completed for a hearing aid or prosthetic, and if determined to be eligible, authorization will be forwarded to Health and Community Services. Requests from non-Income Support clients for orthotics must be made directly to the Regional Health Authority.

Dental Services

The Provincial Dental Health Plan is administered by the Newfoundland Medical Care Commission (MCP). The Dental Health Plan has two programs under the Department of Health and Community Services:

- **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.

Health Related Services (Cont'd)

- **Adult Dental Health Program:** Adults in receipt of Income Support benefits are eligible for an examination, two x-rays, routine fillings and extractions once every three years. Standard dentures are also available once every eight years. Services related to pain, infection or swelling, including emergency exams, x-rays and extractions are not subject to pre-approval and costs are not included in the maximum yearly amount. For further information, please visit the Department of Health and Community Services website at:
www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/dentalservices/general_info.html

Technical Assistance Devices

AESL can provide a recipient, as a one time only purchase, technical assistance devices upon verification that they are deaf or hard of hearing. One or all three of the following services can be provided:

- Visual Smoke Detector up to \$250.00 including HST;
- Alertmaster telephone/doorbell combination system up to \$155.00 including HST; and
- TTY device up to \$422.00 including HST.

Monthly cost and maintenance associated with these devices would be the responsibility of the recipient. Verification of a clients medical condition 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 because of a particular medical condition, such as diabetes. Depending on your medical 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.

Note: For some of the items/services listed above consideration can be given to individuals not currently receiving Income Support benefits, based on a financial assessment. An application for Income Support will need to be completed to determine eligibility. If you need more information about eligibility for programs and services offered by AESL, please call the toll free number for your region:

Avalon:	1-877-729-7888	Central:	1-888-632-4555
Western:	1-866-417-4753	Labrador:	1-888-773-9311