



<b>Legislation</b> <i>Social Assistance Act</i> <i>Reg. 10</i>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Social Programs</b>	
	<b>Program</b>	<b>All Social Programs</b>	
	<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Transient Persons</b>	<b>Policy #</b> 1.10
<b>Effective Date: April 1, 1986</b>		<b>Authorized by:</b>	
<b>Revised Date: Sept 15, 2025</b>		<b>Deputy Minister Doriann Macmillan</b>	

**1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 To define the eligibility of Social Programs benefits for a transient person.

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

2.1 **Applicant:** a person who applied for, or on whose behalf an application is made, or receives benefits and services from Social Programs.

2.2 **Emergency Assistance:** financial assistance granted to an applicant on a one-time basis for a period of time not exceeding one month.

2.3 **Social Programs:** programs and benefits administered by the Social Programs division, including AccessAbility Supports, Clinical Supports, Residential Services, Social Supports (including Child Care Subsidy) and Supports for Seniors.

2.4 **Transient Person:** a person who is present in the province and whose apparent intent is to visit temporarily in the province.

**3.0 POLICY STATEMENTS**

3.1 A person who has relocated to Prince Edward Island without a plan for self-sufficiency, an employment start date, or an established support network indicates that their intent to visit is temporary and will be classified as a transient person.

3.2 Transient persons are not eligible for ongoing benefits from Social Programs.

3.3 To ensure equitable application of this policy, exceptions will be considered for applicants who are victims of family violence or human trafficking, survivors of gender-based violence, or other extenuating circumstances. These exceptions will be carefully

reviewed by a program supervisor or manager on a case-by-case basis to determine if appropriate accommodation is required.

- 3.4 For the purpose of determining an applicant's eligibility for Social Programs, a plan for self-sufficiency does not include an application for Social Programs or other government programs.
- 3.5 In alignment with the residency requirements for PEI Medicare benefits, where an applicant can demonstrate three consecutive months or 90 days of residency on Prince Edward Island, they will no longer be considered a transient person. Applicants are required to provide documentation to support their claim of residency. Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to:
- a lease agreement or rental contract;
  - bank statements issued to a permanent residence;
  - official government issued mail;
  - school records; or
  - property tax bill or mortgage statement.
- 3.6 An applicant in receipt of financial assistance or assistance from a disability support program from another jurisdiction is considered a resident of that jurisdiction and is not considered a resident of Prince Edward Island, regardless of their duration of residency on Prince Edward Island.
- 3.7 An applicant determined to be a transient person in receipt of financial assistance or assistance from a disability support program from another jurisdiction is ineligible to receive emergency assistance.
- 3.8 An applicant determined to be a transient person may be eligible for emergency assistance up to an amount considered adequate for the cost of a meal, overnight accommodation, and return transportation costs to their home country, province, state, or jurisdiction where the applicant has an established support network.
- 3.9 A transient person in receipt of emergency assistance does not require a case plan.

#### **4.0 REFERENCES**

4.1 *Social Assistance Act*

4.2 September 15, 2025 - Policy updated to new format; added exceptions whereby a transient person may be eligible for assistance (3.2), and under what circumstances an



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applicant is no longer considered transient (3.4); replaces SA policy 1.5 Transient Persons and to be utilized for all Social Programs.