

<i>Act/Regulations</i> <i>Social Assistance Act Reg. 18(a)</i> <i>Supports for Persons with</i> <i>Disabilities Act Reg. 41</i>	Program	Social Assistance, AccessAbility Supports	
	Subject	Communication	Policy # SA 5.9 AAS 3.2.1
Effective Date: October 1, 2021		Authorized by: Deputy Minister David Keedwell	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide financial support for communication costs for eligible applicants of Social Assistance (SA) and Assured Income (AI).

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Applicant:** a person who has applied for, on whose behalf an application is made, or is in receipt of funding through SA.
- 2.2 **Assured Income (AI):** a component of AccessAbility Supports (AAS) that provides monthly financial supports to eligible applicants with disabilities to use towards securing basic needs.
- 2.3 **Co-Applicant:** the spouse of an applicant, and includes a person who, although not married to the applicant, lives with the applicant as if they were married.
- 2.4 **Recipient:** a person who is provided SA or AI and includes a person whose SA or AI has been suspended, but not cancelled.
- 2.5 **Supports Coordinator:** a staff member who provides direction and case management support in delivering a range of social benefits and services to applicants eligible for SA.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENTS

- 3.1 An applicant is eligible to receive financial benefits for communication costs of \$40 per month per household. Communication costs may include a telephone or internet expense.
- 3.2 Connection charges, deposits and accrued arrears for communication devices will not be paid by the Department.

4.0 PROCEDURE STATEMENTS

- 4.1 Applicants are responsible to provide verification of communications costs upon application and at minimum once every 12 months as part of the annual review. Verification submitted by the applicant must be in the name of the applicant or co-

applicant and dated within three months of application or annual review. A copy of the verification submitted will be kept in the applicant's file.

- 4.2 The Supports Coordinator will verify an applicant's eligibility for communication costs and will record the eligible expense on the applicant's electronic file. The Supports Coordinator is responsible to document the applicant's service provider and account number.

HISTORY

October 1, 2021: Editorial, content, and format changes. Replaces SA policy 5.5 Utilities, section 7 and AAS policy 3.2 Core Living Supports, section 3.1 & 4.1. Policy has been extended to allow internet as a communication expense.