

<i>Act/Regulations</i> <i>Social Assistance Act Reg. 19(7)</i>	Program	Social Assistance	
	Subject	Personal Care Allowances	Policy # 6.5
Effective Date: July 1, 1992		Authorized by:	
Revised Date: March 1, 2023		Deputy Minister Teresa Hennebery	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide financial support for personal care or comfort items to applicants assessed as permanently exempt from employment and/or training requirements.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Applicant:** a person who applies for or on whose behalf an application is made for SA.
- 2.2 **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.
- 2.3 **Employability Assessment:** a systemic process used to determine an applicant's level of employability at the time of assessment based on the applicant's skills, abilities, education, and employment history.
- 2.4 **Employment Connector:** a staff member that provides ongoing assessment, service, and reviews for applicants referred for employment supports and services.
- 2.5 **Health Care Practitioner:** an individual qualified to provide health care services, has an active license to practice, and has the authority to diagnose medical conditions.
- 2.6 **Personal Care Allowance:** a monthly allowance issued to applicants to purchase items or services for personal care or comfort not included in basic and special needs funding for which the applicant would otherwise be unable to purchase.
- 2.7 **Supports Coordinator:** a staff member that provides direction and case management support in delivering a range of social benefits and services to applicants eligible for Social Programs.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENTS

- 3.1 A personal care allowance is intended to provide disposable income to applicants who are exempt from employment and/or training requirements to purchase items or services for personal care or comfort for which the applicant would otherwise be unable to purchase.

- 3.2 An applicant is eligible to receive a financial benefit for personal care of \$91 per month. Where both the applicant and co-applicant meet the eligibility criteria, both persons are eligible for the benefit.
- 3.3 Applicants must be assessed as permanently exempt from employment and/or training requirements by a health care practitioner and not have access to either casual or earned income to be eligible to receive a personal care allowance.
- 3.4 Where the applicant is assessed as temporarily exempt, eligibility for the personal care allowance will be determined by the Department on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.4 Where an applicant does not have access to a health care practitioner, applicants will be assessed by the Department on a case-by-case basis as described in Social Assistance policy 3.2 Exemptions from Employment. Applicants will be assessed as either employable, temporarily, or permanently exempt from employment and/or training requirements by the Supports Coordinator based on:
- the self-assessment and input of the applicant;
 - consultation with an Employment Connector; and
 - the results of the Employability Assessment.

4.0 PROCEDURE STATEMENTS

- 4.1 The Supports Coordinator is responsible to verify the applicant and co-applicant's eligibility for a personal care allowance and to manually add the expense to the applicant's electronic file.
- 4.2 An applicant is not required to provide verification of expenditures to receive a personal care allowance.

HISTORY:

April 1, 2015: Personal comfort allowance rate change implemented.

June 2, 2015: Editorial and format changes.

June 1, 2017: Personal comfort allowance rate increased from \$71 to \$91.

March 1, 2023: Title has been changed from Personal Comfort Allowance to Personal Care Allowance; Deputy Minister has been updated; Definitions and policy statements have been expanded; Procedure statements have been added.