



	Program	Seniors Independence Initiative	
	Subject	Eligibility	Policy # 1.1
Effective Date: April 1, 2021		Authorized by:	
Revised Date: December 1, 2022		Deputy Minister Jamie MacDonald	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To define the eligibility requirements for the Seniors Independence Initiative (SII) and to identify an applicant’s eligibility and support needs in relation to SII.

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 SII.
- 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 **Income:** the combined income from the applicant and co-applicant as taken from income information from the Canada Revenue Agency.
- 2.4 **Permanent residency status:** a status granting someone who is not a Canadian citizen the right to live and work in Canada without any time limits on length of stay.
- 2.5 **Resident of Prince Edward Island:** a person who is legally entitled to remain in Canada and maintains a primary residence in Prince Edward Island.
- 2.6 **Senior:** a person who is 65 years of age or older, is legally entitled to remain in Canada, and maintains his or her primary residence in Prince Edward Island.
- 2.7 **Support Needs Assessment (SNA):** a systematic process for determining an applicant’s eligibility and identifying potential support needs of applicants for SII.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 SII provides funding for practical services that support seniors to remain in their own homes and communities. An applicant is eligible for SII if the applicant:
- is a resident of Prince Edward Island;
 - is lawfully entitled to be in or to remain in Canada; with a permanent residency status;
 - is 65 years of age or older;
 - lives independently or with a spouse;
 - has a net household income below the eligibility income threshold for a single person or a couple.
 - has combined assets less than \$100,000 excluding primary residence, land, and vehicles.

- 3.2 SII requires verification of eligibility and income status of applicants upon application and at minimum once every 12 months or when a change in circumstances occurs.

4.0 PROCEDURAL STATEMENTS

- 4.1 The Social Supports Coordinator will complete the SNA with the applicant to determine eligibility for SII and advise the applicant of eligibility in writing.
- 4.2 Applicants must be informed that personal information is collected under Section 31(c) of Prince Edward Island's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and is used for the purpose of the administration of SII.
- 4.3 Applicants are responsible to provide all requested documentation at the time of application or review to ensure the department can accurately assess eligibility for SII and to advise the department of any changes that may affect their eligibility as soon as they are aware of these changes.
- 4.4 When an applicant applies to SII, the Social Supports Coordinator will ensure that the applicant lives either independently or with a co-applicant. Where there is a co-applicant, the eligibility will be determined based on a joint application. Where the applicant has another person or family member residing in the home, who is capable of providing the supports, that person will contribute to the supports, which can include financial supports.
- 4.5 The Social Supports Coordinator will verify the income of the applicant to determine the level of funding for which they may qualify. Income shall be verified by the combined income information of the applicant and co-applicant from the Canada Revenue Agency. The applicant will sign a consent form enabling the Social Supports Coordinator and program staff to verify income or provide current copies of their Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) income information.
- 4.6 The Social Supports Coordinator will subtract any funding received from the department, as identified on line 145(00) from line 236(00) of an applicant's income information for the previous tax year.

$$\text{Line 236(00) - Line 145(00) = Annual Income}$$

The combined total of the applicant and co-applicant's income is to be assessed against the Suite of Services Table (attached) to determine funding level eligibility.

- 4.7 The Social Supports Coordinator will verify the assets owned by the applicant and co-applicant. Where the applicant and co-applicant have combined assets that exceed \$100,000 in value, the applicant is not eligible for SII. For the purposes of this calculation, the primary residence, the land the residence is on, and the primary vehicle will be exempt from the calculation.

5.0 ATTACHMENTS

- 5.1 Suite of Services Table

HISTORY:

April 1, 2022: Communication has been added to the suite of services; entitlement amounts have increased.

December 1, 2022: Income thresholds have been increased for singles and couples applying to the program and a new benefit amount has been added to allow for a higher income threshold.

SII Suite of Services

- Grass Cutting
- Home Maintenance
- Housekeeping
- Lifeline Medical Alert System
- Meal Preparation
- Snow Removal
- Transportation
- Communication

Singles – Annual Entitlement Amount

Annual income (<i>as per Section 4.6 above</i>)	Entitlement Amount
Up to \$22,253	\$1,700
\$22,254 - \$25,753	\$1,325
\$25,754 - \$29,253	\$950
\$29,254 - \$32,753	\$575

Couples – Annual Entitlement Amount

Annual Income (<i>as per Section 4.6 above</i>)	Entitlement Amount
Up to \$31,470	\$1,700
\$31,471 - \$34,970	\$1,325
\$34,971 - \$38,470	\$950
\$38,471 - \$41,970	\$575