



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



Overview of Income and Employment Supports for BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) Clients

**Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation
(SDSI)**

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Presentation Objectives

1. To provide an overview of current supports for clients on income & disability assistance including:
 - Basic financial supports
 - Supplementary benefits (e.g. health supplements)
 - Employment supports
2. To answer employer questions including where to go for additional information.



MSDSI mandate is to provide British Columbians in need with supports to help them achieve their social and economic potential

The ministry's key responsibilities include:

- Providing income and disability assistance to those in need;
- Delivering employment programs and services to unemployed and underemployed individuals;
- Supporting Community Living BC to deliver community living services for adults with developmental disabilities; and
- Supporting social innovation.



SDSI provides benefits to three client classifications

Expected to Work (ETW)

- In need and have no other resources

Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB)

- A client with severe multiple barriers to employment and a persistent medical condition that seriously restricts or prevents the person from employment

Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

- Has a severe mental or physical impairment that restricts their activities of daily living and is expected to last for at least two years



Assistance is paid on a monthly basis and differs according to client classification and family size

Singles			
Payments (Monthly)	Employable	PPMB	PWD
Support Allowance	\$ 235.00	\$ 282.92	\$ 531.42
Shelter Allowance (max)	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00
Total	\$ 610.00	\$ 657.92	\$ 906.42

Couples - No Children				
Payments (Monthly)	Employable	PPMB	1 person on PWD	2 people on PWD
Support Allowance	\$ 307.22	\$ 452.06	\$ 700.56	\$ 949.06
Shelter Allowance (max)	\$ 570.00	\$ 570.00	\$ 570.00	\$ 570.00
Total	\$ 877.22	\$ 1,022.06	\$ 1,270.56	\$ 1,519.06

Parents with Children	Single Parent Family		2 Parent Family	
Payments (Monthly)	1 Child	2 Children	1 Child	2 Children
Support Allowance	\$ 375.58	\$ 375.58	\$ 401.06	\$ 401.06
Shelter Allowance (max)	\$ 570.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 700.00
Total	\$ 945.58	\$ 1,035.58	\$ 1,061.06	\$ 1,101.06

Note: Individuals and families also receive provincial and federal tax benefits such as the GST credit, Canada Child Tax Benefit, Universal Child Care Benefit, etc.



Earnings exemptions also differ according to client type

Expected to Work (ETW)	Exemption Amount
Family units without dependent children	\$200/month
Family units with dependent children	\$400/month
All family units with a dependent child who has a severe disability	\$500/month

Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB)	Exemption Amount
Family units where at least one adult is designated a Person with Persistent Multiple Barriers	\$500/month

Persons with Disabilities (PWD)	Exemption Amount
Single person designated as PWD	\$9,600/year
Family unit with two adults where only one is designated as PWD	\$12,000/year
Family unit where both adults are designated as PWD	\$19,200/year



Additional supplements are available to income assistance clients

- **Monthly assistance rates are for shelter and other basic living expenses (food, clothing etc.)**
- **General and health supplements are also available:**
 - **Some are available to all clients (e.g. premium-free MSP)**
 - **Others are available for clients with a particular classification (e.g. Persons with Disabilities) or a particular need or situation**

General Supplements

- **e.g. Crisis, Moving, Transportation and Living Costs, School Start-Up, Security Deposit, etc.**

Health Supplements

- **e.g. Dental, Medical Equipment and Supplies, Diet Supplements, Extended Therapies, Optical, etc.**



Key health supplements include:

- MSP & PharmaCare Coverage
 - Dental Services
 - Optical Services
 - Medical Equipment & Devices
 - Medical Supplies
 - Medical Transportation
 - Extended Medical Therapies
 - Diet Supplements
 - Nutritional Supplements
 - Natal Supplement
-
- With the exception of MSP and PharmaCare, each supplement has specific eligibility criteria



Key client groups who leave assistance for employment retain eligibility for some health benefits

Persons with Disabilities who Leave for Employment

- Through Medical Services Only (MSO), the ministry provides continued access to specific health supplements.
- Not time limited but income tested.

Expected to Work Parents Who Leave for Assistance

- Through Transitional Health Services, the ministry provides continued access to certain health supplements the family received while they were on assistance.
- Limited to one year.

* Note: A PWD client who leaves assistance continues to retain the PWD designation.



For more information on general income assistance policies & benefits

- Clients can contact the Ministry in the following ways:
 - 1-866-866-0800
 - Face-to-face service locations - <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/access-services>
 - Website: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>
 - My Self-Serve: <https://www.iaselfserve.gov.bc.ca/HomePage.aspx>
- Employers can access more information via:
 - 1-866-866-0800
 - <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>

WorkBC: Case Management Eligibility

- Clients who meet EPBC eligibility requirements and have been assessed as needing more than Self-Serve Services, are eligible for Case Management.

To be eligible for EPBC the Client must:

- be a BC resident,
- meet the Program definition of Unemployed ,
- be Legally Eligible to work in British Columbia,
- be seeking Employment , and,
- be assessed as requiring the services of the Program to successfully achieve Labour Market or Community Attachment.

WorkBC: Client Services

The EPBC provides people with disabilities a range of services and supports including:

- Employment planning & case management
- Workshops (may be provided one-on-one or on the job)
- Placement Services: work experiences, job development, customized job development and job coaching
- Customized employment & Discovery, a strengths based approach to discover an individuals' ideal conditions of employment
- Job retention services, up to 48 weeks
- Access to skills training, including essential skills and short-term certificate courses
- Training in self-employment/customized self-employment
- Job search, job start or program access funding



WorkBC: Pre-Employment Supports

- EPBC Job Search Supports are provided to assist eligible Clients with job search costs when looking for a job within the local labour market.
- Client must be Case Managed.
- Includes: Transportation costs, dependent care, personal grooming and hygiene supports, licensing, employment related disability supports.



WorkBC: Post-Employment Supports

- Job Start Supports can be provided when a Case Managed Client has a confirmed job offer and lacks the means or resources to cover the cost of items or expenses to start.
- Includes: Transportation costs, dependent care, essential work clothing or tools, personal grooming and hygiene supports, licensing, employment related disability supports.
- All are eligible for up to four weeks, except SPEI Clients can have up to one year of dependent care.

WorkBC: Single Parent Employment Initiative

BCEA Single Parent Employment Initiative

- To be eligible:
 - Must be a Case Managed EPBC Client
 - Must be on Income Assistance for at least 3 months
 - At least one dependent child (including supported children)
- Up to 12 months of dependent care top-up once employed is available to all SPEI clients that are case managed through the Employment Program of BC.

WorkBC: Disability Supports

Employment Related Disability Supports are available to support an individual looking for work, as well as on the job. They include:

- Assistive Devices, Equipment and Technology
- Attendant Services
- Communication/Hearing Devices
- Interpreting or Captioning
- Ergonomic Supports
- Workplace Access & Modification
- Other (as needed)



WorkBC: Specialized Assessments

Specialized assessments allow further examination of an individual's employment-related abilities, strengths, and employment service needs.

They are administered by qualified professionals and include:

Neuropsychological Vocational Assessment	Work Simulation Assessment
Physical/Functional Work Capacity Assessment	Assistive Technology Assessment
Learning Disability Assessment	Prior Learning Assessment
Medical Assessment Report	Ergonomic Assessment
Audiological Assessment	Speech and Language Assessment
Vocational Psychological Assessment	



Community and Employer Partnerships:

Job Creation Partnerships

- Supports community-based projects that would not otherwise occur without project funding and creates need work experience opportunities for eligible EI Clients

Labour Market Partnerships

- Provides financial assistance to organizations to encourage, support and facilitate partnerships that enable HR planning and labour market adjustment

Research and Innovation

- Provides funding to community organizations/ partners to undertake research or develop and implement innovative projects, processes or practices that strengthen understanding of labour market and move Clients into sustainable jobs

Project Based Labour Market Training

- Supports projects that benefit the community and individuals by providing a combination of on/off the job training under a project based training model to assist eligible individuals obtain the skills they need for employment

<http://www.workbc.ca/CEP>



Connecting To Your Local WorkBC Centre:

Contact information for local Work BC Centres can be found at:

<https://www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/WorkBC-Centres.aspx>

Questions?

