

# ON ASSISTANCE, CAN WORK



## Employment Obligated (EO)

In need with no other resources; must follow employment plan set with an Employment Assistance Worker from the BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR).



## Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB)

Has multiple severe barriers to employment, including a long-term medical condition - confirmed by a doctor - that restricts or prevents employment. A person must have received assistance for 12 of the last 15 months to be eligible.



## Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

Has a severe mental or physical condition - confirmed by a doctor - that restricts daily activities and is expected to last 2 years or more.

## MONTHLY ASSISTANCE + EXEMPTIONS

### How it Works

#### Exemption

A person can earn this much before clawbacks. If they earn more, it is subtracted from their assistance cheque two months from now, dollar for dollar.

There is a two-month delay between earnings and clawbacks. A person who makes more than their exemption in June reports their earnings in July and receives a reduced cheque in August.

#### Assistance Amount

This is the maximum amount provided by the assistance program each month.

#### Shelter Allowance

\$375 is often given directly to the client's landlord. If the client is homeless, they do not receive this part of the assistance amount.

#### Assistance Cheque

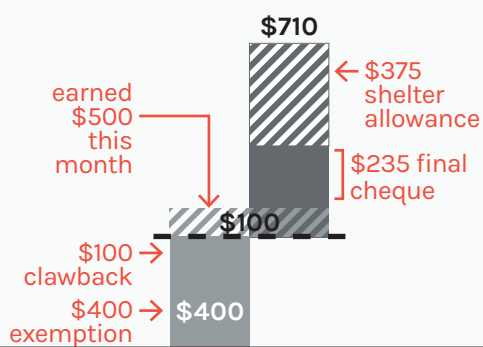
The client receives a cheque for whatever is left after the shelter allowance and any clawbacks are subtracted from the total assistance amount. Some clients must pay rent themselves from this cheque.

#### Monthly Maximum

If a person works, the combined total of exemption and assistance amounts is the maximum amount they have to live on each month to continue receiving cheques.

#### Example

Jane is an EO client. She made \$500 at her job last month. Because this is more than the \$400 exemption, the remaining \$100 will be clawed back from the income assistance cheque she will receive in two months.



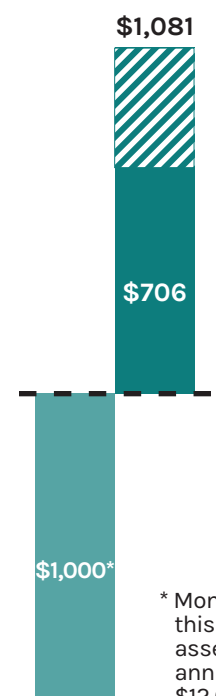
**EO**  
Monthly max:  
\$1,110



**PPMB**  
Monthly max:  
\$1,458



**PWD**  
Monthly average:  
\$2,081\*



\* Monthly average; this exemption is assessed as an annual total of \$12,000.

## LOSING + REGAINING ASSISTANCE

### Employment Obligated (EO)

**LOSING** Automatically ends after 2 consecutive months of earning more than \$1,110 (assistance plus exemption).

**REGAINING** Restart application process from the beginning.

### Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB)

**LOSING** Automatically ends after 2 consecutive months of earning more than \$1,458 (assistance plus exemption).

**REGAINING** Can reapply as PPMB within 12 months of leaving.

### Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

**LOSING** Monthly assistance ends once annual exemption (\$12,000) is reached and monthly earnings continue to exceed assistance amount.

**REGAINING** Medical benefits continue after monthly assistance ends, as long as an individual is eligible for MSP premium assistance. The annual exemption resets at the start of the new year. PWD is a lifelong designation.

### Presented by:



The Potluck Café Society transforms lives by creating jobs and providing healthy food for people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.  
[www.potluckcatering.org](http://www.potluckcatering.org)



The Local Economic Development Lab partners with community organizations to explore innovative ways to build a more vibrant and inclusive local economy in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.  
[www.ledlab.ca](http://www.ledlab.ca)



### Looking to hire?

Knack is a digital badging platform that showcases community members' skills and achievements. Digital badges are tools for recognition, navigation, and motivation within the employment continuum.  
[www.knackworks.ca](http://www.knackworks.ca)

Open Door Group is a non-profit organization that helps connect employers to individuals, including many who are on income assistance. It provides job coaching, skills training, wage subsidies, and other free supports to help your team find the right fit.  
[www.opendoorgroup.org](http://www.opendoorgroup.org)