

FAMILY BENEFITS

Family Benefits is a provincial program of financial assistance to families and individuals who need help with ordinary living expense. You can get Family Benefits if you are likely to be in financial need for a long period of time, because you are disabled, blind, permanently unemployable, a mother raising children alone, a foster parent, or a single or widowed woman between 60 and 65 years of age.

An allowance for food, clothing, household supplies and shelter expenses is provided, along with drug coverage and basic dental care for families with dependent children. In addition, eyeglasses and hearing aids can be paid for.

In order to be eligible for Family Benefits, one must have liquid assets below a predetermined amount. This amount depends on the number of dependents in your family. Liquid assets are defined as cash, money in the bank, stocks, bonds, etc.; or anything which can be readily turned into cash. In addition, your income from other government sources, job earnings, farm revenue, support payments from a husband or father and many other kinds of income, are taken into account in determining your financial need under the Family Benefits legislation.

Usually an application for Family Benefits would be completed in your home by the field worker for your area and any information given is treated confidentially. In addition to the Family Benefits program the Ministry of Community & Social Services also has a Vocational Rehabilitation Services program which is designed to assist physically and mentally handicapped individuals to become employable and whenever possible, self-supporting. Counsellors who are trained to help the handicapped develop work potential, will assess an individual to determine a vocational program to suit that individual's specific needs.

Programs are set up through counselling and the use of community resources such as skill training centres, schools, universities, colleges and special workshops. If you are receiving, or are entitled to receive, help from the Federal Department of Veteran's Affairs or the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board, you are not eligible for Provincial Rehabilitation assistance.

If you wish to enquire further about these programs or feel you might be eligible for assistance, please telephone 544-6206, or write:

Ministry of Community & Social Services,
1055 Princess St., Box 970,
KINGSTON, Ontario.
K7L 4X8.

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