F A C T S H E E T

May 11, 2005   Ministry of Human Resources

HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

- Hardship assistance is available to BC Employment and Assistance applicants who are not eligible for income assistance due to a variety of circumstances and who have proven that all other funding sources have been exhausted.

- Hardship assistance is limited to three consecutive months for the following categories:
  - Income in excess
  - Assets in excess
  - Awaiting other income
  - Identity not established
  - Social Insurance Number (SIN) card required

- To be eligible for hardship assistance, a client or applicant must enter into an Employment Plan when requested.

- Hardship assistance continues to be issued for only one month at a time and eligibility must be re-established every month.

Hardship category	Situation	Repayable to the Ministry	Three-month Limit
Awaiting employment insurance (EI) benefits	Persons waiting for EI benefits, including those in the two-week waiting period.	Yes	No
Strikes or lockouts	Persons involved in labour disputes.	Yes	No
Income in excess	Families with dependent children who have received income in excess of income assistance rates, where the excess income could not have reasonably been expected to meet basic needs.	Yes	Yes
Assets in excess	Families with dependent children, applicants over 65 and persons with disabilities who have assets in excess of specified exemption levels	Yes	Yes

Awaiting other income	Persons awaiting other income including retroactive benefits from CPP, OAS, DVA, WCB	Assignment or repayment depending on source of income	Yes
Identity not established	Persons who are awaiting identification	No	Yes
Citizenship requirements not met	Persons ineligible for income assistance because citizenship requirements are not met	No	No
Social Insurance Number (SIN) card required	While an applicant and/or adult dependent is awaiting a SIN card	No	Yes
Sponsorship Default	Persons awaiting verification of a sponsorship default	No	No

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For more information:

Communications
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