

Financial Eligibility

Full-Time Learners, Non-EI

Your household financial resources affect whether you may be eligible to receive Income Support benefits and how much money you will get. A household includes the learner, spouse/partner, and dependent children. Resources include income and assets.

Income

Income is money received from property, business, government, work, or other sources.

If you are applying for Income Support benefits to attend training you must declare, on your application, your total anticipated household income during the time you will be in training. Any support you are expecting to receive from a parent or ex-partner/spouse must also be included as income.

If you have been out of junior or senior high school for less than two years, your parents may be expected to pay some money towards your education. As well, if your income meets or exceeds your needs over your period of study, you will not be eligible to receive Income Support.

Some types of income are deducted dollar for dollar from Income Support benefits. For example:

- Workers' Compensation and other sickness or accident insurance payments
- Canada Pension Plan benefits
- Child/adult support
- Survivor's benefits for you, your spouse/partner, or dependent child
- Employment Insurance (EI) payments. As a learner Non-EI you are not eligible to continue receiving EI benefits while in training but your spouse/partner can receive EI. However, these benefits will be deducted dollar for dollar.

Some types of income are partly deducted from your Income Support benefits. For example:

- Your and your spouse/partner's net employment earnings – the first \$230 per month for each adult receiving employment income is exempt, plus 25% of any amount over \$230.
- Money from a person who pays you room and board – you keep 75%.
- Money from renting part of the home you live in – you keep 50%.

Earnings Exemption Example

Of \$400 in net employment earnings \$230 is exempt plus 25% of the amount over \$230 ($\$400 - \$230 = \170, 25% of $\$170 = \42). $\$230$ plus $\$42$ equals $\$272$. $\$400$ earned minus $\$272$ exempt equals $\$128$.

Some income does not affect your Income Support benefits. For example:

- Net employment income of each dependent child who is attending school
- Canada Child Tax Benefit
- Goods and Services Tax credits
- Cash gifts of a non-recurring nature, of \$75 or less per person per month (amounts over \$75 are deducted dollar for dollar)

Assets

Assets are things you have worth money, such as cash, Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) or property. A liquid asset is something you can sell or convert to cash quite easily. In the case of some assets, you may be expected to sell part of the asset or the entire asset to support you and your family.

The following are examples of items not counted as assets when determining whether you are eligible for Income Support as a learner. You are not expected to sell them:

- A house of reasonable value that you live in
- Up to \$5,000 per adult in an RRSP
- Registered Education Savings Plans and children's assets
- Up to \$5,000 equity in all vehicles owned by you and your spouse/partner (equity is the resale value of the vehicle minus any money owed on that vehicle)
- Vehicles adapted to accommodate a disability

The amount of assets you are allowed to have before you are expected to use some or all of the assets depends on several factors including family size. If your assets exceed allowable limits you are not eligible for Income Support benefits.

You and your spouse/partner are allowed to have as liquid assets, the amount of tuition and fee costs plus two times your core benefits. This means you can keep the amount of tuition and fee costs plus two times the amount allowed for core shelter + the core essential + the maximum National Child Benefit Supplement (see Financial Benefits Summary sheet). In addition, learners maintain financial eligibility if they have additional liquid assets totaling less than the costs of tuition and mandatory fees.

Some assets may have been purchased with exempt income. Assets purchased with some exempt income will not be used as a resource in determining your financial need. If you think that your assets should not be used, contact the Student Funding Contact Centre.

For More Information

If you need any further information, please contact the Student Funding Contact Centre:

- **Call:** in Edmonton – (780) 427-3722, or toll-free at 1-800-222-6485. Student funding advisors are available 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding holidays.
- **E-mail:** use the secure e-Contact e-mail service available at <https://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/studentsfinance/econtact.asp>.