Social Assistance and You

Developed by the Community Advocates Network

c/o North End Communiy Health Centre 2165 Gottingen Street Halifax, NS B3K 3B5

Special Needs

This section is about special needs, what they are and how to get them covered.

<u>Special Needs</u> are things you need that are not covered in basic needs. Some special needs such as transportation, telephone, special diets and medications are things you need every month. Others are things you need from time to time such as dental work and eyeglasses. Some will only be covered if you are working, ill or disabled, such as childcare.

To get **Special needs** you must prove that you have a need for them. For medical needs such as telephone, special diets, transportation, over-the-counter drugs, dental work, eyeglasses, you have to have a letter from a doctor or dentist. For employment-related needs, such as childcare and transportation, you must have a job and receipts. For shelter-related special needs, such as furniture, you must have a good reason why you need the items.

Advocacy Tip: You have a right to **Special Needs**

policies. Ask you worker for a copy. All policies are on the Department of Community Services website

This is a list of things you can ask for.

Medical Safety equipment, gear **Shelter and Other** Special diets and tools **Emergency shelter** Dental care Fees and dues **Emergency heat** Over-the-counter drugs Work-related courses Security deposits Telephone Short term training House repairs Transportation Personal hygiene and Fire/liability insurance Eve exams grooming supplies **Furnishings** Medical supplies and Books and supplies Extermination services Personal development equipment Property tax arrears Comfort allowances supports Mortgage arrears Child care Disability-related Utility arrears Special clothing equipment and supports Moving expenses Funeral and burial **Employment aids Employment** Psycho-educational expenses

Work related clothing related costs

You have a right to apply for these needs, but there is no guarantee you will get

Other employment

assessments

them. Sometimes you have to fight for them and/.or appeal.

Community Advocates Network: Our membership is made up of First Voice people, who are directly affected by social assistance reform, as well as groups, organizations and agencies. Together with first voice people, active members include

AIDS COALITION OF NOVA SCOTIA **ADSUM HOUSE ADSUM COURT** ALICE HOUSING CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSN.—DARTMOUTH BRANCH **CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND COMMUNITY ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS CONNECTIONS CLUBHOUSE CORNERSTONE FAMILY CENTRE DALHOUSIE LEGAL AID SERVICE** DARTMOUTH FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE DISABLED INDIVIDUALS ALLIANCE **FEEDING OTHERS OF DARTMOUTH** HALIFAX COALITION AGAINST POVERTY MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL CLUB **METRO NON PROFIT HOUSING** METRO RESOURCE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING NORTH END COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE **NS ASSN OF SOCIAL WORKERS** NS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES UNION **NS ASSN FOR COMMUNITY LIVING** PEOPLE FIRST OF NOVA SCOTIA RESTORING DIGNITY SINGLE PARENTS CENTRE ST. GEORGE'S ROUND CHURCH ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HAND IN HAND **TEAMWORKS**

VEITH HOUSE

Transportation

Child care