

A Guide to Changes to the Assistance Regulation

Introduction

[The Manitoba Assistance Act](#) is the law that explains rules for the Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program.

The Assistance Regulation provides more information about how the EIA program will work. This information will include who can get benefits, how someone can apply, and what supports they can get. Some details about the program will be in the policy manual, and not the regulation.

Changes are being made to the Assistance Regulation for greater emphasize meeting people where they are and includes to key parts:

1: The government is creating a new income support program for people with severe and prolonged disabilities. This new program will be separate and apart from EIA. As the new program is launched, the EIA program will make changes to be better understood as a program that provides temporary assistance. Persons with short-term disabilities will also continue to receive services. The “EIA Disability” category of benefits will now be called “Medical Barriers to Full Employment”.

2: EIA is focusing on supporting clients in their journey to independence, and we know this journey looks different for everyone. The regulation is being updated to ensure we support clients based on their different needs and that supportive planning emphasizes even greater options for meeting expectations for the program. This can include literacy programming, adult education, job readiness programming and more.

Government is asking Manitobans what they think of the regulation. This version of the regulation is not final, and might change based on comments from the public.

This guide will only explain the parts of the regulation that are being changed. The changes are numbered, and the guide will go through each number.

Changes to the Assistance Regulation

1. Once these changes are approved by government, the Assistance Regulation will be updated and it will be law.
2. In part 1 of the regulation, the definitions section is being changed in these ways:
 - (a) taking out the definition for “**common-law partner**”. This definition was added to the [Manitoba Assistance Act](#), which was approved in October 2021 and will become official later this year. If a definition is in the act, it doesn't need to be in the regulation. More information about common-law partners is also in program policy.

- (b) changing the definition of “**employability enhancement measure**” to also include literacy programs. This definition describes all of the activities a person may do in their journey to independence, which will now include literacy programs and adult education.
- (c) changing the definition of “**employment program**” to remove wage-based. This means that an employment program could be many different kinds of programs that support people, not just programs that include wages or job earnings.
- (d) changing the definition of “**training incentive**” to include education, training or supportive program. This means that a person can receive money from many different kinds of programs that support people on their journey to independence.
- (e) Changing the definitions of “**eligible rental accommodations**” and “**special care**”:

“**eligible rental accommodations**” means a living situation where a person is paying rent. This term is used in the regulation to explain how much a person can receive for shelter benefits. Some shelter types are not eligible rental accommodations, even if rent is paid. These are:

- (a) any living situation that is owned or operated by Manitoba Housing;
- (b) any living situation subsidized by Manitoba Housing;
- (c) a hospital or mental health facility;
- (d) a personal care home;
- (e) a developmental centre as defined under *The Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Act*;
- (f) any living situation owned, operated or supported by a post-secondary educational institution (student housing);
- (g) a residential care facility, treatment facility, or shelter;
- (h) a living situation that provides both room and board, which means that both shelter and food/meals are provided.

“**special care**” means personal care, support services and supervision provided to a person applying for income support or a person in a residential care facility

- (f) adding these definitions:

“**supportive programming**” means programming to support a person’s personal development, learning, and life skills.

“**treatment program**” means a rehabilitative treatment program and addictions treatment program.

3. In part 2 of the regulation, section 4(7) was added and says:
4(7) A person cannot get benefits if:
 - (a) they are incarcerated (this means in jail); or
 - (b) they are receiving benefits from the disability income support program under the Disability Support Act. This means that a person cannot receive benefits from the disability income support program and EIA at the same time.
4. In part 2 of the regulation, under calculating financial resources, **8(1)(b)** is being changed in these ways:
 - (a) In **8(1)(b)(viii)**, it will now say money received (other than regular child maintenance payments) for children with additional needs; and
 - (b) In **8(1)(b)(xii)**, it will now say money received from an education, training or supportive program.
5. In part 2 of the regulation, the title before section 10 will now say “EMPLOYMENT ENHANCEMENT AND PROGRAMMING. This section explains activities a person can do in their journey to independence.
6. In part 2 of the regulation, under employment enhancement and programming, **10(1)** is being changed in these ways:
 - (a) by changing the title to “EMPLOYMENT ENHANCEMENT AND PROGRAMMING”; and
 - (b) by changing **10(1)(g)** to say a person participating in any activities to support their journey to independence, including employment and training programs, supportive programs, or treatment programs.

These changes are to make sure all kinds of activities are included that support a person’s journey to independence.

7. In part 2 of the regulation, under employment enhancement and programming, **10.1(1)** is being changed in these ways:
 - (a) by changing the title to “Employability enhancement measures and programming for parents of children two to five years of age”; and
 - (b) by adding “supportive programming or treatment programs”.

These changes are to make sure all kinds of activities are included that support a person’s journey to independence.

10.1(2) is being changed to say a person and their spouse or common-law partner must take part in planning and activities to support their journey to independence.

8. In part 2 of the regulation, under employment enhancement and programming, **10.2** is being changed to include supportive programming and treatment programs.
9. In part 3 of the regulation, under shelter assistance, **11.3(2)(a)** is being changed to add **(a.1)**, which says the person or their spouse or common-law partner cannot receive shelter benefits from EIA if they are receiving benefits from the disability income support program.
10. In Schedule A, Division 1 of the regulation, **5(b)** is being changed to remove “St. Amant Centre”, as it is not a developmental centre anymore.
11. In Schedule A, Division 3 of the regulation, these changes are being made:
 - (a) **Health care expenses** is being changed to say essential drugs prescribed by a medical professional that are included in The Pharmaceutical Act. This means drugs are only covered by EIA if they are listed in that Act.
 - (b) **Volunteer benefit** is being changed to say:

A person can not get this benefit:

 - c. for volunteer activities that are part of employment, training, supportive, or treatment programs that a person is going to; or
 - d. if they are getting services from Employability Assistance for Persons with Disabilities, Community Living Disability Services, or services under any other government-paid program to help get a ready for employment.
 - (c) Adding a new section called **Supportive planning** which says a person who is getting benefits for Medical Barriers to Full Employment can get \$25 each month for participating in planning or activities for employment and training, supportive programming, or treatment programming.
12. This regulation, except section 3, will be official on the same day that The Manitoba Assistance Amendment Act is signed and approved by government.

Section 3 says that a person cannot get benefits from EIA if they are in jail or they are receiving benefits from the disability income support program. Section 3 will be official on the same day that The Disability Support Act is signed and approved by government.