



CLOTHING CRISIS SUPPLEMENT

Revised: November 2016

A clothing crisis supplement may be provided by the Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation (MSDSI) to an individual or family unit as a one-time payment to cover the expense of an **unexpected** cost.

The Ministry can issue up to \$100.00 per person in the family unit and up to a maximum of \$400.00 each year. For example, a family unit of 6 will still only be issued a maximum of \$400.00 within one year.

What does unexpected mean?

Sometimes sudden expenses come up which you did not budget for.

For example: *there is a flood or fire in your house and your clothing is damaged and destroyed. You need to buy new clothing, but then that means you'll be short on your rent!*

Who is Eligible?

If you are eligible for income assistance, disability assistance or hardship assistance you can apply for a supplement. Clothing supplements are issued if the need meets these requirements:

It is an **unexpected expense** or the person needs to obtain an item **unexpectedly** and one of the following must apply:

- Failure to meet the expense or purchase the item will be a danger to the physical health of the individual or a person in the family unit **or**
- Removal of a child under the Child, Family and Community Service Act,

It also must be demonstrated there are no other resources available to the individual or family unit to meet the need.

It is a good idea to explain to the Ministry how you meet these requirements in your request.

How to Request a Supplement

Submit a letter with your request to the Ministry. Once you submit the request to the Ministry, ask for it to be date stamped and for a copy so you have proof that you did submit it. It is also beneficial if you can supply any verifying information, such as a doctor's note in the case of an "unexpected" significant weight gain or weight loss, police report, or other supporting information.

If you are not given an answer about the decision when you submit your request, be sure to call back the next day, to inquire about the status of your request. If you have not received an answer the next day, we suggest you visit the Ministry office again.

If you are determined to be eligible, the cheapest way will be approved.

REMEMBER: You DO NOT have to pay back the crisis supplements!

For more information visit our website at www.AskAnAdvocate.ca