

Questions and Answers

Changes to Assistance for Clients Living in Community Living BC (CLBC) Residential Facilities

Note: Please be aware CLBC uses the term client contribution to refer to the amount that residential clients must pay to the service provider for what our ministry considers shelter costs (\$716.13). For our ministry's purposes, this amount is entered on MIS as rent.

Q1. Which groups of clients are impacted by this project?

A1. CLBC provides service to about 10,000 adults. About 5,000 are considered to be living in residential facilities, and the other half are living in more independent situations. Only residential clients are impacted by this project.

Q2. Which ministry clients will have their assistance changed from their former method of payment to shelter and support through disability assistance?

A2. Adults with developmental disabilities residing in CLBC-contracted residential facilities will have their assistance standardized to shelter and support. These clients are:

- Room and Board clients – currently receive a monthly \$60 comforts allowance for personal expenses and have their room and board costs paid to the facility by the ministry;
- Comforts clients – currently receive a monthly \$95 comforts allowance for personal expenses and have their living costs paid by Community Living BC; and
- Comforts and Residential User Fee clients – currently receive a monthly \$95 comforts allowance for personal expenses and have their user fee sent directly to the facility by the ministry.

This ensures all clients in these facilities receive the maximum disability assistance for support and shelter.

Please note that clients who already receive shelter and support (disability assistance) will not have their monthly assistance changed. Shelter and Support clients currently pay a standard monthly shelter cost to the facility, which leaves approximately \$190 for personal expenses.

Q3. How will the standardization affect these clients' monthly assistance?

A3. This standardization will provide all clients residing in CLBC facilities with the maximum monthly disability assistance amount of \$906.42 – leaving all clients with approximately \$190 per month for personal expenses after paying their monthly contribution to their service providers.

The clothing supplement will no longer be available to clients as their assistance for clothing will be included in their shelter and support. However, these clients may be eligible for other supplements, such as the Monthly Nutritional Supplement, available to Persons with Disabilities.

Q4. Will the shelter amount be paid directly to the clients' service providers?

A4. As part of our commitment to promoting greater independence for our clients, clients will receive their full shelter and support directly unless they indicate to the ministry otherwise using a Supplier Cheque Arrangement.

CLBC will be adjusting their contracts to reflect that all ministry clients will be contributing \$716.13 (which includes the new shelter increase) per month towards their shelter costs. The ministry will be working with clients to inform and assist them in the option of having their shelter portion sent directly to the facility.

Q5. When will the standardization of assistance take effect?

A5. The ministry will be amending the regulations by March 31, 2007. The standardized payments will be effective June 1, 2007. Procedures on how staff will standardize payments between April 23 and May 18, 2007, will be provided in April.

Q6. How will the standardization impact clients living in residential facilities funded by the Ministry of Health?

A6. There will be no changes for clients living in residential facilities funded by the Ministry of Health.

Q7. Why do clients in the Ministry of Health (MOH) facilities receive \$95 for personal expenses whereas clients in CLBC facilities are able to keep \$190?

A7. All residents in MOH facilities are required by MOH to pay per diems for their living costs. As a result, for clients living in these facilities, our ministry currently pays a monthly cost of \$894.25 (\$29.40 per day) on a per diem basis directly to the facility. The client receives a \$95 per month comforts allowance for personal expenses and is also eligible for the clothing supplement.

CLBC clients will now receive full support and shelter from our ministry and the clients will be responsible for paying their own client contribution (rent). CLBC advises that clients will generally pay a client contribution (rent) of \$716.13. The remaining support allowance of \$190 per month for CLBC residents is intended to cover personal expenses, including clothing.

Q8. Are CLBC clients required to have rental agreements to confirm their client contribution (rent) to \$716.13?

A8. CLBC has provided confirmation of shelter costs for the clients who are part of this project. This information should be recorded on the client's MIS file (HST). However, should a client or service provider indicate the client contribution (rent) amount is different, they can provide confirmation of shelter costs in the same way as other clients.