

# Rate amounts for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers to Employment (PPMB) Benefits

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The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD) has prepared this Help Sheet to show the assistance rates for PWD and PPMB benefits. Both the PWD and PPMB benefits are divided into three parts: shelter, support and supplements.

## Shelter

The shelter portion of your benefit is the money the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA) gives you to pay for your housing. The maximum amounts that the MEIA will provide to PWD and PPMB recipients are shown in the tables on page 3. For example, a single person on PWD or PPMB gets a maximum of \$375 for shelter; a couple who are both on either PWD or PPMB get a maximum of \$570.

To get the shelter maximum, your rent or housing payments must be equal to or more than the maximum amount. For example, if you are a single person on PWD with no dependents, your rent must be at least \$375 to get that much from the MEIA. However, the shelter portion of your benefits may be used to pay for items, like your phone or hydro, **if your rent is less** than the shelter maximum. See a full list of these items below.

For example, if you are a single person with no dependents on PPMB, your maximum shelter allowance is \$375 a month. If your rent is \$350 a month, you can put \$25 of your shelter allowance toward the cost of your phone, as long as you show an Employment and Assistance Worker (EAW) your phone bill.

If your rent is \$375 or more, you **will not** receive any extra money from the Ministry for your phone or other bills.

## Allowable costs

### If you rent your home:

1. Heating fuel
2. Fuel for cooking meals
3. Water
4. Hydro
5. Garbage disposal provided by a company each week or every two weeks
6. Rental of one basic residential single-line telephone.

**If you own your home, shelter costs also include:**

1. House insurance premiums
2. Property taxes
3. The actual cost of maintenance and repairs for the family home if it is owned by a person in the family unit. These costs **must first be approved** by the Ministry.

If the costs for your utilities, like phone and hydro change, the MEIA may set its own average winter and summer rates. The winter period begins on October 1 and ends on March 31, and the summer period begins on April 1 and ends on September 30.

**Minimum shelter allowance**

- If you receive PWD benefits and have no shelter costs, the Ministry will provide you with \$75 a month.
- If you receive PPMB and are between 60 and 65 years of age and have no shelter costs, the Ministry will provide you with \$75 a month.

## Rate Amounts for PWD and PPMB Benefits (April 1<sup>st</sup> 2007)

For both PWD and PPMB, the support allowance does not increase if there are more than 3 people in a family.

Household Size and Type	Support	Shelter Maximum	Benefits Total
<b>PWD</b>			
Single Person	\$531.42	\$375.00	\$ 906.42
Couple: One person on PWD	\$700.56	\$570.00	\$1,270.56
Couple: Both people on PWD	\$949.06	\$570.00	\$1,519.06
Two-parent family: One child, one person on PWD	\$794.56	\$660.00	\$1,454.56
Two-parent family: One child, both people on PWD	\$1,043.06	\$660.00	\$1,703.06
One-parent family: One child	\$ 672.08	\$570.00	\$1,242.08
<b>PPMB</b>			
Single Person	\$282.92	\$375.00	\$ 657.92
Couple: One person on PPMB	\$396.22	\$570.00	\$ 966.22
Couple: Both people on PPMB	\$452.06	\$570.00	\$1,022.06
Two-parent family: One child, one person on PPMB	\$490.06	\$660.00	\$1,150.06
Two-parent family: One child, both people on PPMB	\$546.06	\$660.00	\$1,206.06
One-parent family: One child	\$423.58	\$570.00	\$ 993.58

### Shelter Maximums for PWD and PPMB by Household Size up to a 7-member family

\*The Shelter Maximum increases by \$35 for each family member above a family size of 7.  
Source: Based on Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance Rate Tables.

Household Size	Shelter Maximum
1	\$375.00
2	\$570.00
3	\$660.00
4	\$700.00
5	\$750.00
6	\$785.00
7*	\$820.00

In some situations, you may only be eligible for PWD or PPMB Hardship Assistance (HA). The HA rates are the same as the PWD and PPMB rates, but they may be time-limited, subject to review, repayable, and you may not be eligible for supplements, such as the diet allowance.

## Other Benefits for People with Children

If you have children, you are eligible for the Family Bonus and the National Child Benefit. The amount you will receive depends on your specific situation. For example, the age of your child, or whether or not you are single parent, will affect the amounts. A single person on PWD or PPMB with one child under 7 years old, may get about \$200 a month in addition to the support portion of their benefits. The Family Bonus and National Child Benefit are administered by the federal government. For information, please call 1-800-622-6232.

## Supplements

Supplements are extra benefits you can receive from MEIA in addition to your shelter and support allowances. These include monthly diet allowances, nutritional supplements and crisis grants. You should talk to your EAW about whether or not you qualify for any of these supplements. You may also want to look at our *Help Sheet 3: Checklist for the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Benefit* and *Help Sheet 7: Health Supplements for People with Disabilities*.

## Comforts Allowance

Some people who live in group homes or residential facilities may be eligible for a \$95 monthly allowance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Here are answers to some questions we are often asked at Advocacy Access.

### **Q. What if I am paying room and board for my accommodation?**

**A.** The Ministry will pay you the same amount you pay for your room and board, plus an additional \$60 per month. If you have dependent children, you will receive \$40 per child, up to the combined shelter and support maximum for your family size (please see the table in this Help Sheet). If you are **receiving** room and board from a parent or a child, the MEIA will only give you your support maximum. If you are on PWD, or on PPMB and over 60 years old, you will also receive the \$75 minimum shelter cost allowance.

### **Q. Why do some people with the same family size and rent receive more or less benefits than me?**

**A.** Different factors can change the amount of benefits a person receives. These include supplements, like a diet allowance, that will increase the amount of a person's cheque, and repayment agreements to the Ministry which will reduce the amount of money a person receives. You have the right to ask your EAW to explain how your benefit rate has been calculated.

### **Q. If I live in a housing Co-op can I include insurance payments in my shelter costs?**

**A.** Yes, all Co-op members are homeowners and must have insurance. If you are living in a Co-op and are not receiving the shelter maximum, talk to an EAW about your monthly insurance premiums.

**Q. What if I have shared custody of a dependant child?**

**A.** You may receive extra shelter allowance for each child that stays with you for more than 40% of each month. To qualify, you must have either a shared custody court order or a shared parenting agreement.

**Q. What if I own my home and need to renegotiate the terms of my mortgage. How will this affect my shelter allowance?**

**A.** The MEIA can provide you with the maximum shelter allowance that you are eligible for based on your monthly mortgage payments and other available shelter costs (see page 2). It is a good idea to talk to an EAW before you change any of your mortgage financing.



**Prepared by Advocacy Access, a program of BC Coalition of People with Disabilities**  
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