

Reasons for Decision:

Order# 1718-0668

The appellant filed one appeal with three issues.

1. Request for special needs allowance denied
2. Funds for computer and internet denied
3. Insufficient amount for transportation/bus tickets

Special Needs Allowance

The program representative stated that the appellant receives assistance under the disability category. The appellant has been advised several times that they must phone their worker rather than email. Their worker left a message for them to call which the appellant did not respond to. On <date removed>, the worker received an email from the appellant stating, "can you please send my special needs for the year". The appellant further stated that they had not been able to contact their worker and to please confirm by email that the worker received his request. A letter was sent to the appellant on <date removed> to remind them that communication by email would not occur due to confidentiality reasons. A further letter was sent on <date removed> reminding them again that the worker will not communicate by email and that an appointment was scheduled for <date removed> for them to come in and discuss their file. The appellant did not attend this appointment. On <date removed>, the appellant sent a letter to the program requesting special needs amount of <amount removed>. The program denied this request as the appellant would not specify the need and did not attend the appointment provided to discuss further.

The appellant stated that as per the Employment and Income Assistance Administrative Manual, special needs allowance is supposed to be issued to all participants and there is nowhere in the policy that states you have to request it and justify why you need it.

Section 21.1.1 Special Needs

Schedule A, section 9 of the Regulation provides for special needs assistance as follows:

"up to \$150.00 per household in any fiscal year, but the Minister or any person or persons authorized by the Minister may, in accordance with terms and conditions that may be prescribed by the Minister, grant an additional amount;"

After carefully reviewing the written and verbal information, the Board has determined that there are no provisions within The Manitoba Assistance Act or The Manitoba Assistance Regulation that the program must provide special needs assistance. The

Board finds that the program has reasonable expectations relating to requests for additional funding, and the appellant did not provide any justification for their request. Therefore, the decision of the Director has been confirmed on this issue.

Computer Request and Internet Access

The program representative presented a past Appeal Board decision of <date removed>, where the appellant requested a computer and internet access. The Board recessed, then advised all parties that the hearing will proceed on this issue as the worker confirmed that there had been a new program decisions made since the Board's decision of <date removed>, which is confirmed by letter to the appellant dated <date removed>.

The appellant advised that they would like a computer in their home to finish their grade 12 education and to learn French. The appellant stated that they could not get out of the house every day to go to school due to their disability.

The program representative stated that the appellant did not notify the program as to the need for the computer, just said they wanted one. The worker also stated that Employment and Income Assistance does not provide funds for the purchase of a computer or monthly internet access. Several appointments have been scheduled to discuss with the appellant alternative options for educational programs and computer access, none of which they attended.

After carefully reviewing the written and verbal information, the Board has determined that there are no provisions within The Manitoba Assistance Act or The Manitoba Assistance Regulation to disburse funds for a computer or internet access. Therefore, the decision of the director has been confirmed on this issue.

Bus tickets

The program advised that the appellant requested funds for bus tickets to attend their doctor's appointment. A letter was sent to them on <date removed> advising that the funds have been issued.

The appellant confirmed that they received those funds, however requested funds for appointments that had occurred after they filed their appeal.

As the Board cannot rule on a request subsequent to the date of the recent denial, there will be no decision made on transportation, and this matter is closed.

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