

Policy Number: SE4.116	Policy Section: Supports and Services	Effective: July 1, 2007 Amended: August 11, 2023
Title: Individual Financial Contribution to Home Supports Policy		Executive Sponsor: Vice President, Service Delivery & Innovation Vice President, Governance & Communications

Policy Summary:

This policy outlines that an individual must pay their service provider to contribute to their shelter (housing) and basic living costs when housing is included as part of the service.

This happens for home sharing and staffed living (group home) services.

How much money the individual pays depends on where their money comes from.

For example, an older individual pays a different amount than someone under age 65 because the older individual receives a different kind of government assistance.

1. PURPOSE

The *Individual Financial Contribution to Home Supports Policy* requires individuals to make payments towards their shelter and basic living costs when they are receiving home supports and housing is provided as part of the service. This policy identifies the underlying principles for this requirement and clarifies what the individual is contributing toward. Staff should use this policy together with the *Individual Financial Contribution to Home Supports Procedures* as one set of guidance.

2. DEFINITIONS

Cultural safety: An outcome of respectful engagement based on recognition of the power imbalances inherent to service systems, and the work to address these imbalances. A culturally safe environment for Indigenous peoples is one that is physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually safe without challenge, ignorance, or denial of an individual's identity. Practicing cultural safety requires having knowledge of the colonial, sociopolitical, and historical events that trigger disparities encountered by Indigenous peoples and perpetuate and maintain ongoing racism and unequal treatment.

Equity Approach: The systematic assessment of disparities in opportunities, outcomes, and representation, and the incorporation of targeted actions into practice with the aim of addressing those disparities.

Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement (OAS/GIS): Federal income payments made to eligible individuals, age 65 and over.

Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Assistance: Individual payments made to persons with disabilities as determined by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction under the provisions of the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act and Regulation*.

Quality of Life: A multidimensional framework composed of core domains influenced by personal characteristics and environmental factors. These core domains fall under three broad areas of independence, social participation and well-being and are the same for all people, although they may vary individually or culturally in relative value and importance. Assessment of Quality of Life domains is based on culturally sensitive indicators, and generally takes into account general health, well-being, and happiness.

Home Supports: CLBC services that support individuals to live in their homes including those funded through individualized funding or person centred societies. Home supports include independent living, shared living (home sharing and live-in support), and staffed living as defined in the *Supports Funded by Community Living BC* document.

Home Support Provider: For the purposes of this policy, a home sharing provider or a service provider contracted to provide staffed living.

Shelter And Basic Living Costs Contribution: The financial contribution an individual makes to the cost of their home and basic living costs when receiving home sharing or staffed living services.

3. POLICY

3.1 Guiding Principles

The *Individual Financial Contribution to Home Supports Policy* and any adjustments to shelter and basic living costs contribution amounts are informed and guided by the following principles:

- Supporting and safeguarding financial well-being is an essential part of CLBC's responsibility to individuals and promotes their quality of life. Ensuring that individuals have funds over which they have control supports their independence, self-determination, and participation in community.
- Individuals' financial contribution to their own shelter and basic living costs affords them the opportunity to fulfill a valued role, providing a greater degree of personal control over their own home.
- The total funding a home support provider receives is not impacted by the income source of the individual they support.

3.2 Individuals make shelter and basic living costs contribution payments to their home support provider when they receive CLBC-funded home supports in which housing is provided as part of the service. This includes home sharing and staffed living arrangements. See *Appendix: Financial Responsibilities and the Shelter and Basic Living Costs Contribution* for details.

3.3 This policy does not apply to individuals who receive independent living services or live-in support, as they pay for their living costs independently.

3.4 The shelter and basic living costs contribution rate individuals are required to pay is based on

their income source (e.g., PWD assistance, OAS/GIS). As of August 1, 2023, the shelter and basic living costs contribution rate:

- for individuals receiving PWD assistance is **\$841.13/month**.
- for individuals receiving OAS/GIS is **\$ 1,005.80/month**.

- 3.5 For individuals who do not receive PWD assistance or OAS/GIS, or who receive the couple rate, the Policy and Government Relations team support regional staff to identify the required shelter and basic living costs contribution rate. See the *Individual Financial Contribution for Home Supports Procedures* for details.
- 3.6 Home support providers receive the individual's shelter and basic living costs contribution in addition to payment from CLBC. Payment rates are set by CLBC based on individuals' disability-related needs as outlined in the [Resource Allocation Policy](#).
- 3.7 CLBC periodically reviews the shelter and basic living costs contribution rate and may make adjustments. Increases to provincial and/or federal benefits may result in increases to the shelter and basic living costs contribution rate. Increases to the shelter allowance portion of PWD assistance **will** result in a direct increase of the full amount to the shelter and basic living costs contribution rate.
- 3.8 This policy is developed, implemented, and evaluated in a manner that promotes cultural safety in alignment with the guiding principles and best practices outlined in the *Cultural Safety Policy*.

4. REFERENCES

[Cultural Safety Policy](#)

Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act

Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation

Individual Financial Contribution to Home Supports Procedures

Individual Financial Contribution to Home Supports – Information Sheet for Families

[Resource Allocation Policy](#)

Supports Funded by Community Living BC

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction:

PWD assistance rates

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/bc-employment-and-assistance-rate-tables/disability-assistance-rate-table>

Public Guardian and Trustee:

Financial and Personal Decision Making Services

<http://www.trustee.bc.ca/services/services-to-adults/Pages/financial-management-and-personal-decision-making-services.aspx>

Federal Government:

Old Age Security /Guaranteed Income Supplement Payment Amounts

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/cpp/old-age-security/payments.html>

APPENDIX: Financial Responsibilities and the Shelter and Basic Living Costs Contribution

This table provides guidance for determining responsibility for costs – individual situations may vary.

	Home Support Provider Responsibility (Including Use of Shelter and Basic Living Costs Contribution)	Individual Responsibility (Not Including Shelter and Basic Living Costs Contribution)
Housing	X	
Electricity/utilities	X	
Internet and home phone	X	
Personal cell phone/computer		X
Food	X	
Bus pass/ HandyDart		X
Other transportation (e.g., doctor's appointments, etc.)	X	
Travel/vacation		X
Clothing		X
Personal toiletries and services (e.g., toothpaste, shampoo, make-up, haircuts, etc.)		X
Standard cleaning supplies	X	
Entertainment		X
Prescription and non- prescription health care supplies		X
Bedding*	X	X
Furniture*	X	X

* Home sharing providers normally provide basic furniture including a standard bed and bedding. When individuals need personalized furniture, beds and bedding the supported individual would cover these costs. These matters are determined by the parties involved.

Note: PWD assistance is used for the purposes set out by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction - for the support, shelter, personal and basic living costs for the person who receives PWD assistance. For more information about how PWD assistance may be used, please contact the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.