

Individual Financial Payments for Residential Services

For Internal and External Stakeholders

**** This guidance is valid only for the interim period as part of the COVID-19 Emergency Response ****

Purpose:

The COVID-19 crisis is affecting some individuals' residential services in the following ways:

- individuals are receiving supplemental funds or alternate payments from government for April, May and June to assist with additional expenses or lost income
- some individuals are choosing to temporarily leave staffed residential or home sharing resources to live with their families during this health emergency

As these temporary measures are not considered in CLBC's existing policy, this document provides guidance on the payment, allocation and amounts of individual financial contribution for residential services during the emergency funding period. This guidance document should be used together with the *Individual Financial Payment Policy: Residential Services* (IFP policy), and *CLBC Emergency Advance Funding – Foundations*.

Background:

Individuals living in staffed residential homes or home sharing are required to contribute financially to the cost of their shelter and support. The IFP policy identifies contribution amounts based on the income individuals receive through provincial disability assistance (PWD) or Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement (OAS/GIS) payments. **This contribution amount has not changed.**

In order to ensure that individuals who receive income or disability assistance, a comforts allowance, or a BC Senior's Supplement do not encounter additional barriers during physical distancing restrictions, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) has directed that:

- eligible individuals receiving these types of assistance will receive an additional \$300 per month for the months of April, May and June
- Employment Insurance (EI) or Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) received by individuals on income or disability assistance will not be deducted from their income or disability assistance for the months of April, May and June

Any additional benefit amounts are to be retained by the individual and are not to be paid to service providers for residential services.

INTERIM GUIDANCE - Individual Financial Payments – April 2020

CLBC has historically made adjustments to residential service contracts in order to adjust for fees normally paid by individuals for the administration of individuals’ financial affairs by the Provincial Guardian and Trustee (PGT). This practice has been suspended while CLBC and PGT work on policy and process, therefore **CLBC is not currently making new contract adjustments regarding PGT fees.**

Current physical distancing requirements during the COVID-19 crisis have encouraged some individuals who usually reside in a staffed residential home or home sharing to shelter in place with their families. **In the event that an individual leaves a residential resource to live with family, their contribution amount will not be paid to the service provider but retained by the individual to contribute to costs and shelter at their family home.**

Guidance:

In alignment with the Ministry direction and its standardized shelter payment amounts, CLBC’s interim guidance on individual financial contributions for their residential services is that:

- Individuals who have chosen to live with family during the COVID-19 emergency will retain their entire financial benefit amount, including any amounts normally paid to their residential services providers.
- CLBC will provide emergency shelter costs of \$375 per month to residential service providers for each individual they normally support that has decided to live with family during the COVID-19 emergency.
- CLBC will provide emergency shelter costs of \$570 per month to residential service providers for couples living together that they normally support, who have decided to live with family during the COVID-19 emergency.
- CLBC will continue to pay regular contracted support amounts to staffed residential and home sharing providers through existing contracts with CLBC.
- The additional PWD payment of \$300 monthly is intended to be retained in its entirety by the individuals for their personal expenses. It is not intended for payment towards residential services.

Individual residential contribution amounts remain unchanged, and are set out in this document for ease of reference:

Individual Contribution amount for individuals living in staffed residential and home sharing	Individual contribution amount to residential service while living with their families during COVID-19 Emergency Funding Period	Portion of Individual Contribution amount regularly defined for shelter costs
Individuals: PWD: \$716.13 OAS/GIS: \$1,005.80	Individuals: PWD: \$0 OAS/GIS: \$0	Individuals: PWD: \$375.00 OAS/GIS: \$375.00
Couples living together: PWD: \$716.13 each OAS/GIS: \$747.70 each	Couples living together: PWD: \$0 OAS/GIS: \$0	Couples living together: PWD: \$570.00/per couple OAS/GIS: \$570.00/per couple

References:

CLBC Emergency Advance Funding – Foundations

Individual Financial Payment Policy: Residential Services

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction: [SDPR guidance](#)