

Income Support

A person with a mental illness may require extra income support. The organizations mentioned in this section will be able to assist with information and navigating the system.

The Personal Supports Program facilitates access to supports for persons with disabilities.

1-888-818-1211; TTY: 1-800-661-8773

<http://www.personalsupports.bc.ca>

Disability Assistance

Income support is available to eligible individuals designated under the Employment Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act (PWD Act).

The Act defines a person with disabilities as a person:

- who is 18 years of age or older
- has a severe physical or mental impairment that is expected to continue for at least two years
- is significantly restricted in her/his ability to perform daily living activities
- requires assistance with daily living activities from another person or an assistive device

The criteria specifically includes:

- individuals with mental disorders, i.e. mental health problems
- individuals with episodic illnesses by acknowledging that restrictions to daily living activities can be continuous or periodic for extended periods

A person with the PWD designation may be eligible for:

- a monthly support and shelter allowance
- medical coverage, including MSP and Pharmacare, and limited dental and optical coverage
- \$500 earnings exemption per family unit per month
- low cost annual bus pass
- reduced basic car insurance
- vehicle fuel tax rebate

For more information, call: **1-866-866-0800**. To determine eligibility visit web-site:

<http://www.iaestimator.gov.bc.ca>

More information about the program in general can be found at:

<http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/pwd/eapwd.htm>

PovNet Advocates Database

National organization that also provides a database of income advocates around the province.

www.povnet.org

Canadian Pension Plan (Disability Benefits)

For more information about federal government benefits for those with disabilities.

HRDC: 1-800-277-9914

www.sdc.gc.ca/en/isp/contact/contact_us.shtml

For more information contact your local Employment and Assistance Centre, listed right, or visit their web site at:

<http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm>

(under Ministry of Housing and Development)

Burnaby

Burnaby Metro Pointe Employment and Income Assistance Centre

604-664-0135

Vancouver

Service BC

To find out which of the 20 Vancouver offices you should contact (determined by postal code), call the Vancouver regional office: **604-660-3224**

<http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm>