

**Connecting with
Employment & Income Assistance
(EIA)
and/or
Manitoba Supports for
Persons with Disabilities
(MSPD)**

Manitoba
June 2023



Today you will learn...

- What are EIA and MSPD and how to prepare for your intake appointment
- How financial eligibility is determined
- About the EIA Medical Barriers to Full Employment category and MSPD Disability category
- How income exemptions enhance the quality of life for participants with disabilities
- About other benefit options and helpful resources

What is Employment and Income Assistance (EIA)?

- EIA provides financial help to Manitobans who have no other way to support themselves

What is Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD)?

- MSPD is a new income support program designed for persons with severe and prolonged disabilities, that is separate from EIA

EIA and MSPD Program Health Supports

- Both programs provide additional financial supports for persons with disabilities to help with the costs of living with a disability

This may include:

Medical Supplies
& Equipment
(i.e. incontinence
supplies)

Therapeutic Diet

Medication

Health Telephone

Health
Transportation

Dental

Foot Care

Optical

What is EIA?

- For persons who are interested in employment or education, EIA may assist with exploring referrals to other government and community-based partners to prepare for training, and find a job by providing supports to employment
- EIA financial supports may also be available for persons who may experience temporary medical barriers to full employment and are not eligible for MSPD severe and prolonged disabilities

Connecting for an Intake Appointment

- Your Children's disABILITY Services (CDS) Community Service Worker (CSW) can connect you with an intake appointment
- During the application process applicants may choose to apply for EIA only, MSPD only, or both programs at the same time

What is needed to apply?

To be ready for an intake appointment the following is needed:

- A bank account in the applicant's name
- Required identification: Social Insurance Number, Manitoba Health card and a government issued identification

Reminder: Getting a bank account and identification can take time. It is recommended that individuals start gathering the information 3-6 months prior to their 18th birthday.

What is needed to apply? (continued)

- Confirmation of current housing situation or living arrangement
- Copies of any medical reports, diagnostic information, psychological or psychoeducational assessments*, if possible

*Your Children's disABILITY Services CSW might be able to help you with this.

What to Bring to an Intake Appointment

- A support person/attendant can come to the appointment
- It is very helpful to have all necessary documents at the intake appointment so that there is no delay in assessing eligibility

Click on the link to see the full intake checklist of required documents:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/eia/pubs/eia_checklist.pdf

What Happens During An Intake Appointment?

In order to determine EIA or MSPD eligibility, staff ask some basic questions at an intake appointment about:

available assets (e.g. savings, investments, trusts, items of value)

health needs and/or medical conditions that may require additional health-related supports

current housing situation/living arrangements

personal and/or family situation

current income status (e.g. employment earnings or money from other sources)

education background, current work status/history

How Is Financial Eligibility for EIA or MSPD Determined?

- Financial eligibility is calculated as the difference between an applicant's financial resources and the cost of basic daily living needs (based on EIA or MSPD rates)
- Just as an individual's unique needs are assessed in CDS, each individual's unique circumstances are assessed to determine their EIA or MSPD budget
- Individual budgets will vary based on whether they are enrolling in the EIA or MSPD program

EIA **does not count** some ongoing financial resources or assets.

Examples of EIA exemptions include:

- A portion of employment earnings (i.e. earnings exemption/work incentive)
- Money saved in a bank account up to \$4,000 per person/\$16,000 per household
- Income tax refunds/GST credit payments
- Registered Education Savings Plans (RESP), or amounts in a recognized EIA Disability Trust or Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

Some financial resources are **not exempt** and are considered when determining EIA eligibility may include:

- Employment income above exempted amounts listed on previous slide
- Federal or Private Pension Plans, Retirement or Disability benefits, or other ongoing federal income benefits (e.g. Employment Insurance, Orphans, War Veterans Allowance, etc.)
- For other sources of earned/unearned income – check with staff to confirm if exempted or non-exempted

EIA Medical Barriers to Full Employment

Individuals may be enrolled in the EIA Medical Barriers to Full Employment category if they:

- Meet EIA financial eligibility criteria
- Complete the Disability Impact Assessment (DIA) process
- The DIA process determines whether the medical/disability information meets EIA Medical Barriers to Full Employment category eligibility criteria (as per the EIA Act)

Enhancing the Quality of Life for Participants with Disabilities

EIA has a number of enhancements to help EIA participants with disabilities improve their financial circumstances without fear of losing their EIA eligibility:

- **Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Benefit:** EIA provides \$105.00/month benefit to help offset some of the costs of living with a disability
- **Enhancements to EIA Liquid Asset Exemptions:** EIA exempts \$4,000 per person, up to a household maximum of \$16,000
- **Enhanced Work Incentives:** The first \$200.00 of monthly employment earnings, plus 30% of the remaining earnings do not affect EIA monthly benefits
- **Family Contribution Exemption:** EIA exempts family contributions of up to \$500.00/month made to an EIA participant with a disability

EIA Income Exemptions

There are income exemptions that exist to help EIA participants with disabilities enhance their disability-related needs and quality of life without impacting their eligibility for EIA.

- **EIA Disability Trust:** EIA exempts a lifetime capital contribution of \$200,000 placed in a recognized trust
- **Registered Disability Savings Plan:** EIA exempts any assets, growth and withdrawals from federal RDSP's

Please see link for more information:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/eia/eia_rdsp.html

Your intake counsellor can discuss income exemptions in more detail.

Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities

- Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities is a new income support program designed for persons with severe and prolonged disabilities, that is separate from EIA
- The Manitoba Supports program provides all of the same financial, health, and other benefits as EIA, plus additional benefits

Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (continued)

Additional benefits include:

- Increased financial benefit amount
- While there are no requirements to work, individuals can earn up to \$12,000 per year from employment
- Couples can earn up to \$18,000 per year from employment before benefits are affected
- Once enrolled, no additional medical eligibility reviews will occur
- Optional Community Navigation services will be available for individuals who are interested in additional non-financial supports

Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (continued)

EIA Disability clients meeting the following eligibility criteria were automatically transferred to the new MSPD Program:

- Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS)
 - Canada Pension Plan – Disability benefits (CPP-D)
 - Living in a personal care home
-
- All other Manitobans with severe and prolonged disabilities are invited to apply for the Manitoba Supports program
 - The application process will determine whether financial and disability impact assessment requirements are met

Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (continued)

You can connect with the Manitoba Supports program by contacting your Children's disABILITY Services (CDS) Community Service Worker (CSW) for details on how to apply; or click on the following link to the website:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/manitobasupports/index.html>

- General questions about the Manitoba Supports program can be sent to disabilitysupport@gov.mb.ca, or you can phone 204-945-1040 or toll free at 1-877-403-MSPD to leave a voicemail message for a call back

Other Benefit Options to Explore

If you are not interested in applying for EIA, then you can still explore eligibility for the following:

Rent Assist (for persons not on EIA) may provide financial assistance for low-income Manitobans living in private rent or private board and room arrangements.

[Province of Manitoba | fs - Rent Assist for Manitobans Not Receiving EIA Fact Sheet \(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/rent-assist-fact-sheet)

Pharmacare is a drug benefit program for eligible Manitobans, regardless of disease or age, whose income is seriously affected by high prescription drug costs. Pharmacare coverage is based on both your total family income and the amount you pay for eligible prescription drugs.

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/>

Helpful Resources:

**Your Children's disABILITY Services
Community Service Worker can assist with
connecting you to EIA or MSPD.**

For more information on EIA visit:

- <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/eia/>
- https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/eia_manual/index.html

For more information about Manitoba Supports visit:

- <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/manitobasupports/index.html>