

Achieve Your Goals

Promoting Employment and
Education for Persons with Disabilities



ARE YOU THINKING about a career, furthering your education and/or going to work? The Department of Social Development has career development opportunities to support New Brunswickers with disabilities who are receiving social assistance, achieve their goals.

A Career Development Opportunities case manager can help:

- set possible goals
- develop a personal plan
- answer questions or concerns relating to training or employment
- refer you to available services and programs

If you are not receiving help with employment or career planning, ask your case manager to refer you to a career development case manager.

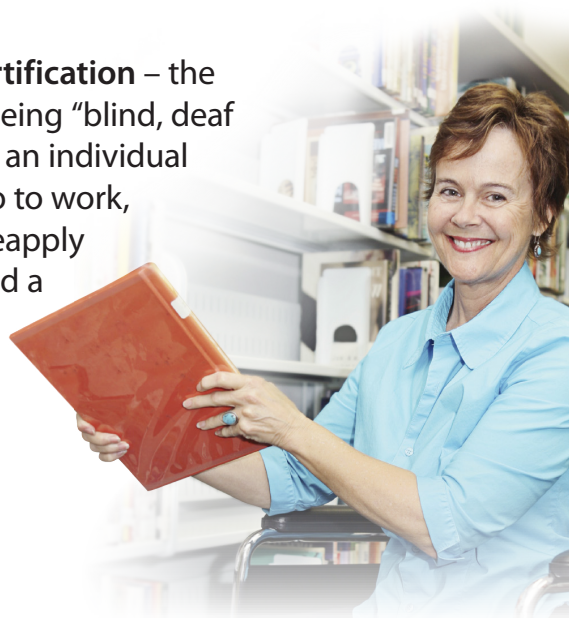


Benefits

Starting a new job

If you find full-time employment, money may be available to help you with the costs of starting your new job (for example: clothing, transportation, licensing fees, car expenses). Some other possible benefits are:

- **Moving allowance** – if a job is in another city, we may help you with moving expenses.
- **Day care assistance** – if you have children, we may provide money to cover part of the daycare/child care costs.
- **Health card** – a health card will be provided for 12 months for people who have found employment and who no longer receive social assistance. Depending on the level of income and expenses, some people may be eligible for an additional 12 months of health card coverage.
- **Wage exemption** – people who go to work may earn a certain amount of money each month before their social assistance is reduced. Talk with your case manager about the wage exemption.
- **Medical Advisory Board certification** – the certification of a person as being “blind, deaf or disabled” is permanent. If an individual leaves social assistance to go to work, at any time, he or she may reapply for assistance and won’t need a new medical report.



Important Information

- You may keep your health card for 12 months.
- You may earn income and still receive social assistance while transitioning to full-time employment.
- Your disability certification is permanent, so you won't need a medical report if you reapply for social assistance.
- If you have a subsidized housing unit, you may earn an income and keep your housing arrangement. Your rent will continue to be calculated at 30 percent of your income, regardless of your income level.

Going back to school

If you are thinking about going back to school or furthering your education, you must use student aid for educational expenses. This could include tuition, student fees, books, instruments, transportation, typing costs, etc. You should also consider applying for scholarships and bursaries.

If you are a single person receiving social assistance, you must use student aid for your education and living expenses.

If you have dependents (children in your care), you must use student aid for education-related costs. Your social assistance may continue to cover food and shelter.

If you have developed a plan and wish to go back to school, the following benefits may be available:

- **Child care** – You may be able to get financial help for child care. You are encouraged to use licensed daycare facilities whenever possible; sitter costs will only be considered when daycare is not available. Top-ups to daycare rates will not be paid. Social Development doesn't pay the cost of a sitter if that

person is someone who lives with you, is a parent of the child, or is a grandparent of the child.

- **Clothing** – if you need clothing for training, talk to your case worker as he/she may be able to help.
- **Medical examination** – the cost of a medical exam may be paid when you are required to attend a training program.
- **Moving expenses** – the cost of moving may be considered when you will be attending a post-secondary institution outside your region for a long time, and if other options for funding are not available.
- **School supplies** – this benefit may be available to help you get access to upgrading or skills-training opportunities. Supplies may include pens, pencils, binders, looseleaf paper, etc.
- **Special clothing/equipment** – special clothing refers to hard hats, work gloves, etc. Equipment requests must be made by the training facility. Talk to your case manager about what can be provided.
- **Student activity fees** – student activity fees may be covered and paid directly to training institutions.
- **Textbooks** – please check with your case manager to discuss this benefit.
- **Transportation** – please check with your case manager for rates.

Important Information

- You must use student aid for education and living expenses.
- If you have dependants, your social assistance may continue to cover living expenses.
- You may be eligible for child care costs.
- Other related costs should be discussed with your case manager.

Starting your own business

If you are thinking about starting a business, your case manager can direct you to someone who can help you make a business plan and help you reach this goal.

Entrepreneur program

As a participant in the entrepreneur program you may still be able to receive social assistance and health-card benefits. If you receive a loan from the New Brunswick Entrepreneur Program, any income you may get during the first year of the loan will not be used in determining eligibility for social assistance benefits.

For individuals who are not participating in the entrepreneur program

- **Wage exemption for self-employed clients** – if you become self-employed, during the first three months of business, your income is not used in determining eligibility for social assistance benefits. After the first three months, you may be eligible for the extended wage exemption, for up to 12 months. **This is a one-time benefit.**
- **Income calculation for self-employed applicants and clients** – income will be calculated as gross revenue (sales or earnings) less business expenses, to a maximum of 50 per cent of gross revenue.



Important Information

- You must have reasonable potential of becoming self-sufficient within 12 months.
- You must have a business plan prepared by a third party, such as an accountant.
- You must not have previously used the wage exemption for self-employed clients, which is a one-time-only benefit.

If you become unemployed

You may reapply for social assistance. This involves a 20-minute conversation with a screener, and if you are eligible, an appointment with a needs assessor is made right away.

If you were previously approved for disability certification you won't need to get another medical report.

If you qualify for employment insurance you may be able to get social assistance while you are waiting for employment insurance to start.

For additional information please contact your Department of Social Development regional office:

1-833-SDDStel (1-833-733-7835)



Be informed.

Visit www.gnb.ca/socialdevelopment

Additional Services

In addition to the benefits offered by the Department of Social Development, the following services are available:

The Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

Training and Employment Support Services

The Training and Employment Support Services (TESS) for Persons with Disabilities program offers training and employment services that help persons with disabilities achieve their occupational goals or obtain employment.

TESS is intended to decrease the barriers faced by persons with disabilities so that they are as competitive as the non-disabled population in their search for employment. Services for which a TESS client may be eligible include counseling to help decide on a career plan, adaptive equipment required to pursue a career goal, and assistance with special educational or training costs. For further information, ask your case manager, and he or she can direct you.

Employment Assistance Services (EAS) for persons with disabilities

The Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour provides funding for non-profit organizations to coordinate a variety of employment-related services for persons with disabilities. These services include employment counseling, resume writing, job search, career options, assessments for work accommodations, etc.

Bathurst

CNIB - (506) 546-9922

CCNB - Bathurst (506) 547-2145 or 1-800-552-5483

Services des Sourds et Malentendants du NB (506) 548-3114

Campbellton

Restigouche Residential Agency - (506) 759-6668

CNIB - (506) 546-9922

NBCC/CCNB - Campbellton - (506) 789-2377 or 1-888-648-4111

Caraquet

CNIB - (506) 546-9922

Centre de Ressource Vie Autonome - (506) 336-1304

Edmundston

Emploi Habileté Plus - (506) 737-1860 / (506) 737-1876

Fredericton

Canadian Mental Health Association - (506) 451-9190

CNIB - (506) 458-0060

Jobs Unlimited - (506) 458-9380

Canadian Paraplegic Association (N.B.) Inc. - 1-866-462-9555

Fredericton Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services - (506) 450-9354

New Brunswick Association for Community Living - (506) 453-4400

Moncton

Moncton Employment and Training Services - (506) 858-9404

Southeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services - (506) 859-6101

Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work - (506) 858-1650

CNIB - (506) 861-0265

Miramichi Career Flight - (506) 627-4350

Perth-Andover

Carleton Victoria Community Vocational Board - (506) 273-6868

Saint John

Options Outreach Employment Agency - (506) 652-3977

Saint John Association for Community Living - (506) 652-1544

Saint John Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services - (506) 633-0599

CNIB - (506) 634-6922

St. Stephen

Working Stronger Together - (506) 466-7566

Sussex

Crosswinds Employment Agency - (506) 432-7500

Canada Study Grants

Students with disabilities may be eligible for up to \$8,000 a year from the federal government to cover exceptional education-related costs associated with certain permanent disabilities.

To apply, you must first apply to your provincial student financial services office for a full-time or part-time Canada student loan in order to establish need. You must submit a separate application form for the Canada Study Grant to the same office.

Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities

Students with disabilities may be eligible for up to \$2,000 per loan year to assist with covering the costs of accommodation, tuition, books and other education-related expenses.

To apply, you must first apply to your provincial student aid office for a full-time or part-time Canada student loan in order to establish need.

As of August 1, 2005, the first \$2,000 of assessed need for students with disabilities will be authorized by way of the Canada Access Grant.

To be eligible, all students must have a permanent disability, not be restricted from further Canada Student Loans, maintain a satisfactory scholastic standard, and have an assessed need.

For information about your eligibility, the assessment of your student loan application, or to request an application for a Canada Study Grant for a student with a permanent disability, contact the Student Financial Services branch (below), or the financial aid office at your institution.

Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

Student Financial Services

77 Westmorland Street, Suite 500

P.O. Box 6000

Fredericton, NB E3B 6Z3

Toll-free: 1-800-667-5626 or (506) 453-2577

Fax: (506) 444-4333

Website: www.studentaid.gnb.ca

Information for permanent disability provisions is available from:

Website: www.canlearn.ca

Or:

National Educational Association of Disabled Students

Rm. 426, Unicentre

1125 Colonel By Drive

Carleton University

Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6

Telephone: (613) 380-8065 (Voice & TTY)

Fax: (613) 369-4391

E-mail: info@neads.ca

Website: www.neads.ca

New Brunswick Community Colleges (NBCC)

Community colleges have persons on staff to assist you with supports needed for continuing your education and preparing for a job search. Contact your nearest community college for information.

Equal Employment Opportunities Program

The Equal Employment Opportunity program was established in 1984, and has provided Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of visible minority groups with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities in the New Brunswick public service.

The objective of the program is to help create a more balanced workforce that reflects the diversity of our province.

To register with the Equal Employment Opportunity program, contact

Equal Employment Opportunity Program

Official Languages and Workplace Equity Branch

Office of Human Resources

P.O. Box 6000

Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Telephone: (506) 453-2264

www.gnb.ca

For any information about supports and services for people with disabilities, you may also contact:

Premier’s Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

440 King Street, Suite 648

Fredericton, NB E3B 5H8

Telephone: (506) 444-3000 Toll-free: 1-800-442-4412

www.gnb.ca/council



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