

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

For our most vulnerable Islanders, our Social Assistance system is inadequate and creates barriers rather than support opportunities

We heard... Islander's Social Assistance living amounts are not enough to live on.



A CLOSER LOOK...

HOW MANY DOLLARS A MONTH ARE ISLANDERS ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE GETTING? >>

Family	Food, Clothing, Household items, Personal items	Shelter	Transportation	Coin-Operated Laundry	TOTAL
Single room and board	Included in shelter money	\$501	\$25	\$18	\$544
Single	\$214	\$523	\$25	\$18	\$780
Single Parent with two children under 11	\$519	\$756	\$25	\$30	\$1330
Single Parent with two children over 11	\$631	\$756	\$25	\$30	\$1442
Two Parents with two children 2-17	\$736	\$829	\$25	\$36	\$1626

Department of Social Services

We heard... Once you are on Social Assistance it is hard to get the resources to get off.



"How do you get a job without a phone or computer access?"

THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO...

"Everyone who is on Social Assistance should be encouraged to get their GED if they don't have it, but instead they just say no to the people who ask."



IF YOU HAVE A JOB WHILE ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, IT'S EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO GET AHEAD...

eg.



Maximum earnings allowed before they start deducting dollar for dollar from your Income Support cheque:

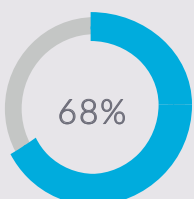
We heard... It is difficult to navigate the system because the policies are contradictory and confusing.



We heard... People using Social Assistance feel stigmatized by their workers and the general public.

WHO EXACTLY IS ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE?

5,900 ISLANDERS
1,600 CHILDREN



68% SUFFER FROM DISABILITIES

4% OF THE ISLAND POPULATION

PEI Government, "Preventing and Reducing Poverty on PEI" 2011

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Review the Social Assistance guidelines and rules to ensure client's basic needs are met with dignity.

Provide clients with information on their rights, services, referrals and what is expected of them.

Increase and improve supports for the clients transitioning from Social Assistance to the workforce.

Enhance supports for caseworkers.