

Reasons for Decision:

Order # 15/16-09-0289

The appellants appealed that their eligibility for subsidy ended on <date removed>.

The Program advised that when a couple applies for subsidy, the program must establish a reason for care for both adults. The application for subsidy originally was approved until <date removed> based on full time seeking employment for both. Seeking employment subsidy can be granted once every six months for a maximum of twelve weeks. The appellants were granted seeking employment subsidy for twelve weeks from <dates removed>. A reapplication was submitted on <date removed> and both their reasons for care were indicated as volunteer work. The appellant indicated the appellant was volunteering at a <reference removed> and the other appellant was volunteering at a <reference removed>. A letter of ineligibility was sent stating their reason for care did not qualify for continuation of their subsidy. The appellant contacted the subsidy office and advised that in order for the appellant to pursue a <reference removed> career in Canada the appellant needed to volunteer at a <reference removed>. The appellant also advised that the appellant's spouse needed to volunteer at a <reference removed> in order to pursue a career as a <reference removed>. The subsidy adviser advised the appellants that if they could provide written confirmation that both were required volunteer placements from the <reference removed> and the <reference removed>, then subsidy could be considered provided it was a mandatory requirement to obtain employment in their field. The subsidy program has not received the requested information to date, therefore subsidy cannot be considered.

The appellant reported that the appellant and his spouse are newcomers to Canada effective <date removed>. The appellant and his spouse have no objections to the subsidy policies but request that there be an exception for their volunteer work. The appellant advised that the appellant is a licensed <reference removed> in the appellant's home country. The appellant stated that the appellant must volunteer at the <reference removed> to gain experience in a Canadian <reference removed> in order to join the <reference removed>. The appellant indicated that the appellant has tried with no success to get letters from the <reference removed> as well as the <reference removed> for his spouse. The appellant submitted at the hearing, information from the <reference removed> webpage which shows that the appellant needs two letters of recommendation to accompany the appellant's application for eligibility to register for examinations by the <reference removed>. The appellant's volunteer placement should provide one of those letters of recommendation. The appellant stated that the appellant must first work as a <reference removed> before obtaining a <reference removed> license in Canada as the appellant would need to know the nature and language of Canadian <reference removed> terms. The appellant advised that the appellant volunteers approximately four days a week for 5 hours a day, sometimes longer to study. The appellant's spouse's volunteer placement will end next week as the appellant's spouse will be attending full time English classes.

The Child Care Policy Manual states;

2.03 Reasons for Using Child Care

To qualify for subsidy an applicant and co-applicant (if applicable) must each have at least one of the following Reasons for Care. The reason(s) may be a combination of:

*Employment
Education
Seeking Employment
Medical
Special Needs
Nursery School Enrolment*

2.03.01 Volunteer Work

Subsidy approval cannot be considered for applicants engaged in volunteer work unless it is a prerequisite for an approved Reason for Care. The applicant will be required to provide a confirming document before subsidy will be approved.

After carefully reviewing the written and verbal information the Board has concluded that the program was correct in determining that subsidy was not approved as there was not a valid reason for care. Although the Board understands the value of the appellants' volunteer work to assist them in moving towards employment, nothing was presented to the Program or the Board which indicated that their volunteer placements are prerequisites as per the Child Care Policy Manual 2.03. Therefore the decision of the Director has been confirmed and the appeal is dismissed.