

Reasons for Decision:

Order # 15/16-08-0277

The appellant appealed that the appellant was denied funds for furniture and household needs. The appellant had also appealed the discontinuation of the appellant's nutritional supplement in <date removed>, but the Board had previously ruled that this was outside the legislated timeframe for filing an appeal and they could not hear this issue.

The Department indicated that the appellant was provided with a start-up allowance of \$499 in <date removed>. This is a one time allowance provided to persons who are moving out into the community for the first time. A second start up grant would only be considered in exceptional circumstances where a person lost all their belongings due to a fire or other tragedy. The Department can provide a bed once every seven years and bedding every three years, but otherwise there are no allowances for furniture or household items.

At the hearing the appellant provided the Board with a list of items that the appellant needed including couch and chair, dresser, end tables, cookware, utensils, coffee cups, glasses, serving utensils, knives, toaster, and kettle. The appellant stated the appellant does not have any of these items, and has exhausted the known community resources looking for free items. The appellant stated that when the appellant received the start up allowance the appellant used at least part of it to buy clothes, as the appellant did not have any at that time. The appellant lives in a building where congregate meals are available, but the appellant must prepare the appellant's own supper each day. The appellant does not have the cookware, utensils, and dishes to be able to do this.

Schedule A, Section 9 of The Manitoba Assistance Regulation allows for the payment of Special Needs in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed by the minister. The terms and conditions prescribed by the minister are outlined in The Employment and Income Assistance Administrative Manual in Section 21.1.3. This section of the policy outlines the circumstances under which a start up grant may be provided. This Section of the policy also specifically states:

Special needs assistance should not be used for the replacement of household items such as furniture and furnishings, and for purchase of cutlery, pots, pans, dishes, towels, curtains, etc.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the appellant was provided with the start up grant, and there is no provision for special needs to be provided for furnishings or household items outside of this one time allowance. Therefore the decision of the director has been confirmed.