

Reasons for Decision:

Order #AP1617-0346

The appellant appealed that the appellant was denied funds for a bus pass for the appellant's child to attend high school, and the appellant needed funds for a health telephone. At the hearing the appellant advised that the issue regarding funds for a telephone had been resolved.

The representatives from the Employment and Income Assistance Program advised at the hearing that the program does not provide transportation costs for dependent children to attend high school. The program included a policy which refers to the conditions under which transportation costs are provided for persons to attend post secondary school. This policy refers only to participants who are attending secondary school as part of an approved Personal Job Plan.

The appellant stated that the appellant's child is attending the same high school <text removed> for several years. <Text removed> The child s enrolled in <text removed> in specialized courses <text removed> The appellant's child was able to walk to school until they moved into Manitoba Housing about a year and a half ago. The appellant stated that they now live very far from the school and it would take well over an hour to walk there. When the weather is nice, the child can ride a bike, but the child needs to take a bus over the winter months. The appellant stated that with the appellant's limited finances the appellant finds it very difficult to buy her child a bus pass each month which costs about \$66 a month. The appellant stated that the appellant believes it should be a priority of the income assistance program to support children to complete high school so they can get good jobs and support themselves in the future, and not need to rely on assistance in the future.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that there are no provisions in The Manitoba Assistance Act, The Manitoba Assistance Regulation, or the Employment and Income Assistance Policies. Although not explicitly stated, the Board assumes that the National Child Benefits are exempted from the income assistance budget to cover non-essential expenses, such as transportation, not covered by the basic needs allowance. Therefore the Board can find no basis in legislation or policy on which to order the provision of a bus pass for the appellant's child. The decision of the Director is therefore confirmed.

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