

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1718-0174

The appellant appealed that a request for funding for an air conditioner was denied.

The appellant submitted a letter from Home Care Services and a prescription from a doctor requesting an air conditioner due to multiple health conditions such as <text removed> which requires a reduced temperature/humidity environment. The program representative stated that the appellant was approved for an air conditioner in <date removed> prior to the implementation of the Disability and Health Supports Unit (DHSU).

Decisions regarding health needs are currently made by DHSU effective July 2014 to ensure consistency in decision making in all Income Assistance offices across the province. Individual case workers do not have the authority to add special health-related requests to income assistance budgets.

The DHSU reviewed this request and determined that there is no provision which authorizes the Employment and Income Assistance program to fund this need.

The appellant attended the hearing with a Home Care Services Case Coordinator. The Case Coordinator advised that the appellant's air conditioner has been broken since <date removed>. They did not request a replacement at that time as it wasn't a concern over the winter months. The appellant stated that as the temperature has increased symptoms have become worse without the air conditioner and there is no place to get comfort in the home.

In accordance with Schedule A Division 3 of The Manitoba Assistance Regulations

Health care expenses state:

The following amounts are payable to a person in respect of his or her health care:

(a) essential medical and surgical care;

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the appellant's request for funds for the purchase of an air conditioner for the home is a reasonable request to manage a very serious medical condition. The appellant's physician and a Home Care Case Coordinator have provided a written rationale and a diagnosis as to why the appellant requires an air conditioned environment. The program purchased an air conditioner for the appellant previous to the development of the DHSU as they recognized the need. The Board has determined that the purchase of an air conditioner should be considered an eligible expense under the Manitoba Assistance Regulation, Health Care Expenses. Therefore the Board is rescinding the Director's decision on this issue and orders the Department to provide funds for an appropriate air conditioner for the appellant.

DISCLAIMER

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