

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1819-0418

On <date removed>, <name removed> filed an appeal against the Department's calculation of their Rent Assist subsidy. The decision letter was dated <date removed>.

The Department stated that, according to the Regulations, Rent Assist is based on the net income of every person living in a household. The definition of net income is the same as in *The Income Tax Act*. According to the Regulations, the net income to be used in calculating eligibility is the net income on the tax return in the preceding year when an application is filed after July 1.

<name removed> applied on <date removed>, requiring the Department to assess the application based on their <year removed> income. The Department performed the pension rollback calculation as specified in the Regulations.

At the hearing, <name removed> stated their Rent Assist was insufficient for their needs. The appellant noted the cost of living keeps rising generally, and costs related to their medical care are particularly onerous.

<name removed> also raised a concern about the transparency of the Rent Assist formula, and the clarity of the Department's communication to the public about the nature of the Rent Assist benefit. The appellant asserted that the benefit is only a small fraction of a person's rent, and the calculation is only indirectly related to the actual rent costs experienced by an applicant.

After careful consideration of the written and verbal evidence submitted to it, the Board determined that the Department assessed <name removed>'s application correctly according to the legislation and regulations, and that there is no provision in the legislation for discretion. The Board confirmed the Director's decision calculating the Rent Assist subsidy.

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