

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1516-0326

The appellant appealed that the appellant was denied funds for a monthly bus pass.

The Department reported that the appellant submitted a doctor's note on <date removed> stating that the appellant requires a bus pass for medical appointments once a week. A new budget letter was sent to the appellant on <date removed> advising that based on the number of medical appointments the appellant's doctor indicated, \$22.50 has been added to the appellant's budget for bus tickets which is the equivalent of 10 tickets per month. The appellant was advised that if the appellant had any other medical-related appointments to submit confirmation. On <date removed> the appellant sent a copy of the same medical note with different handwriting added that stated the appellant cannot walk distances, along with another note that states the appellant has to walk with a walker.

As the new information did not advise of any other medical related appointments, the appellant's request for a health bus pass remained denied. Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) provides the cheapest form of transportation therefore if a participant has 3 or more medical appointments per week, then a monthly bus pass would be the cheapest. If the participant has less than 3 medical appointments per week they would be provided with bus tickets upon confirmation of the medical appointments. Therefore there was insufficient information to determine eligibility.

The appellant stated that the appellant has more than just the appellant's regular doctor's appointment every month. The appellant advised that the appellant's medical related appointments consist of going for blood work once a month, <reference removed> twice monthly for fittings, and regular dietitian appointments. The appellant also advised that the appellant volunteers every <day removed> and <day removed>.

The appellant is in the process of trying to find a new doctor and stated that the appellant's doctor didn't find it necessary to advise the Department in his letter of all the appellant's other related medical appointments. The appellant said that the appellant relies on the appellant's bus pass for medical appointments as well as to maintain the appellant's independence.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the Employment and Income Assistance Program has correctly determined that the appellant does not meet the eligibility criteria for a monthly bus pass.

The Manitoba Assistance Regulation Schedule A, division 3, Section 9, Health Care Expenses specifies that:

emergency transportation and other expenses as may be authorized by the director and which, in the director's opinion, are necessary to provide the care, treatment or attention required.

Eligibility for transportation costs is not determined by the severity of a person's medical condition, or their mobility issues, but strictly by the number of medical appointments that a person has. As the appellant has not provided confirmation of any more regularly occurring medical appointments, the Board agrees that the Department does not have any justification for adding a bus pass allowance to the appellant's budget. The Department advised at the hearing that the appellant is in receipt of the Rewarding Work allowance for the appellant's volunteer work, which includes transportation costs. Therefore the decision of the Director has been confirmed and the appeal has been dismissed.

DISCLAIMER

These are electronic copies of the Reasons for Decision issued by the Social Services Appeal Board. These written reasons have been edited to protect the personal information of individuals by removing personal identifiers.