

Reasons for Decision:

Order #AP1617-0336

The appellant appealed that the appellant's request for a monthly bus pass was denied. The Department advised that the appellant provided a medical note indicating that the appellant had several medical appointments each month including appointments at <text removed> and a couple of specialists. As the Employment and Income Assistance program only provides bus tickets for verified medical appointments, the appellant was provided with enough bus fare in the budget to pay for five medical appointments per month. If the appellant has more than five appointments in one month, then the appellant could contact the worker for additional tickets.

The worker stated at the hearing, that the programs that the appellant attends do provide the appellant with bus fare to attend their program, and the transportation funds in the budget should be enough to cover any medical appointments. The worker also stated that if the appellant had an emergency situation, they could authorize a taxi for the appellant.

The appellant stated that the appellant needed a bus pass for health and safety reasons. The appellant stated that being out on the street has caused the appellant to <text removed>, and being forced to walk places puts the appellant in danger. The appellant indicated the appellant had been assaulted on numerous occasions, and the appellant now gets nightmares. The appellant also indicated that not being given a bus pass has caused the appellant to resort to actions the appellant did not want to take in order to get the money needed for transportation. The appellant indicated that the appellant fears for the appellant's life if the appellant does not get a bus pass, and the appellant was in considerable distress at the hearing.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the appellant does not meet the eligibility requirements to have funds for a monthly bus pass added to the budget. There are no provisions in The Manitoba Assistance Regulation for funds for transportation to be provided, except in the case of emergency medical transportation. The Employment and Income Assistance Administrative manual has broadened the eligibility criteria to include any medical transportation, not strictly emergency transportation. There are no provisions in the regulation or policy to provide transportation for everyday activities or due to mobility issues. This is something that the workers are not allowed to do, regardless of the personal circumstances of the person on income assistance benefits. The appellant is not eligible to receive funds for a monthly buss pass unless the appellant can show that the appellant has three scheduled appointments per week. Therefore the Board must confirm the decision of the Director.

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.