

# YOUR LIFE, YOUR RIGHTS

## RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH ON INCOME ASSISTANCE IN BC

Income Assistance is a social service offered by the BC government to support folks and their families who need money and don't have any other way to support themselves. Income Assistance can help people until they can find work.

### YOUR RIGHTS

You have rights if you apply for or get Income Assistance. You have the right to:

- \* **APPLY** for Income Assistance if you need it
- \* Learn what you need to do to apply and **GET HELP** if you need it
- \* Have the government look at your **APPLICATION** and decide if you're eligible
- \* **GET THE AMOUNT** you're eligible for
- \* Participate in **EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS**
- \* Be told that you have to look for other **SOURCES OF INCOME**
- \* Be told about any **DECISIONS** that are made and how they were made
- \* If the government decides you're not eligible, you have the right to **APPEAL** the government's decision
- \* Have government staff be courteous, respectful, efficient and **FAIR** to you
- \* **NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST**
- \* Have any **COMPLAINT** you've made about your treatment reviewed quickly and fairly
- \* **PROTECTION** and **PRIVACY** of any information you give the government about yourself or your family

### You might be able to get Income Assistance if:

- \* You aren't working or not working enough to cover living expenses like rent and food
- \* You're waiting for other income to come in
- \* You aren't able to work
- \* You need food, a place to live or medical services right away

### APPLY FOR INCOME ASSISTANCE

You can apply for Income Assistance online at the link below  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/apply-for-assistance>

**DON'T HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?** Call 1-866-866-0800 or apply in person at a Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction office. If your community doesn't have a local office, you can apply at a Service BC centre.

### MORE INFORMATION

You can find all the details about Income Assistance and how to apply on the BC government's website, by calling **1-866-866-0800**, or by going to a ministry office in your community.  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

You also have a lot of responsibilities when you apply for or access Income Assistance. You have to:

- \* **LOOK FOR WORK** for three weeks (some people don't have to do this, like if you're leaving an abusive relationship or if you're a person with a disability)
- \* Look for other ways to get **MONEY**
- \* Participate if you've been referred to an **EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**
- \* Take a **JOB** if one comes to you and you can do it
- \* **COMMIT** to getting off Income Assistance as soon as you can
- \* Have or get a **SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER**
- \* Give the government **VALID ID** for yourself and any family
- \* Give the government **CORRECT INFORMATION** about yourself and your family
- \* Tell the government if anything **CHANGES** in your life that might affect your eligibility for Income Assistance

### GET SUPPORT!

Income Assistance is complicated and it can be hard to know what your rights are, but there's help if you need it!

#### FEDERATION OF BC YOUTH IN CARE NETWORKS

The Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks (the Fed) is a youth-driven, peer-based, provincial non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of young people in and from care in BC between the ages of 14 and 24. If you feel your rights not being respected, you can connect with us and one of our friendly staff can help you.  
[fbcyicn.ca](http://fbcyicn.ca) | [info@fbcyicn.ca](mailto:info@fbcyicn.ca) | 604-527-7762

#### OMBUDSPERSON

The BC Ombudsperson looks into complaints about provincial and local governments. If you'd like to make a complaint about how you've been treated while on Income Assistance or while applying, you can reach out to the Ombudsperson's office and they can investigate it.  
<https://bcombudsperson.ca/> | 1-800-567-3247