

Request for Decision

Discretionary Benefits

Presented To: Community Services
Committee

Presented: Monday, Feb 03, 2014

Report Date Monday, Jan 27, 2014

Type: Managers' Reports

Recommendation

WHEREAS discretionary benefits are part of the Ontario Works Program, and;

WHEREAS per the Ontario Works Program, the discretionary benefits are provided on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Welfare Administrator, and;

WHEREAS the discretionary benefits are cost shared with the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS with the loss of the Community and Start Up Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB), there is a need for current and prescribed amounts for the discretionary benefits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury revise the discretionary rates effective immediately and within the approved operating budget.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Luisa Valle
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Jan 27, 14

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
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Recommended by the C.A.O.

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Finance Implications

The increase in the discretionary benefits rates will be absorbed within the current operating budget and are cost shared with the Province.

Background

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) as part of the Provincial Ontario Works Program, defines in Regulation, or as authorized by the Provincial Director of Ontario Works, the special services, items or payments that are considered "discretionary benefits" for Ontario Works.

Discretionary Benefits

Discretionary benefits are provided on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Welfare Administrator (for the City of Greater Sudbury, the Welfare Administrator is the Director of Social Services). A social assistance recipient would be eligible for these benefits where the local Welfare Administrator has made a determination of need based on verifiable documentation and where failure to provide the service would

result in a detriment to the health of the recipient or a member of the benefit unit. The local Welfare Administrator determines the amount to be provided for discretionary benefits.

Currently, the benefit is cost shared with the Province (88.6/11.4), and will continue to be uploaded to 100% by the Province by 2018. Any expenditure above the capped amount would be the responsibility of the Municipality.

With the announcement of the discontinuation of the Community Maintenance and Start Up Benefit (CSUMB) and the introduction of the new program Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), the Municipality anticipated an increase to the discretionary benefit requests as the transition occurred during 2013.

Dental, vision, optometry, denturists and orthodontic rates are determined by agreement with Ministry of Community Social Services and professional organizations and are not included in this report.

As a result of the above, a review has been conducted on the rates, items and frequency that have been historically covered. The attached chart reflects the new discretionary items and rates that will be covered through the program effective immediately.

Appendix 1 - Discretionary Rate Chart

Item	Previous		Revised (Effective 2014)	
	Amount (up to)	Frequency	Amount (up to)	Frequency
Blood Pressure Machines/Kits/Monitors	\$250	One time purchase only	\$250	One time purchase only
Car Seat	\$140	Once / dependent child	\$175	Once / dependent child
Booster Seat	\$50	Once / dependent child	\$75	Once / dependent child
Layette and Baby Supplies	\$150	7 months pregnant to birth	\$150	7 months pregnant to birth
	\$150	New born up to 12 months	\$150	New born up to 12 months
Pre-natal Vitamins	\$15 / three months	Duration of pregnancy	\$30 / month	Duration of pregnancy
Folic Acid	\$10 / three months	Duration of pregnancy	\$20 / month	Duration of pregnancy
Pest Control-Fumigation (home owners)	\$250	In a 12 month period	\$500	In a 12 month period
Pest Control-Cleaning			\$150	In a 12 month period
Tub/Shower/Bathroom Grab Bars			\$100	In a 12 month period
Misc Household Items (Singles/Couples) To support clients who are establishing a new principle residence and do not meet the CHPI guidelines.			\$100	Every 2 years
Misc Household Items (Families with children) To support clients who are establishing a new principle residence and do not meet the CHPI guidelines.			\$200	Every 2 years
Misc Household Items (Singles/Couples) To support clients with health related needs.			\$100	Every 2 years
Misc Household Items (Families with children) To support clients with health related needs.			\$200	Every 2 years
Prosthetic Appliances				
Alerting Systems (hearing impaired)	As per estimate	As required	As per estimate	As required
Aerochamber	\$60	Every 2 years	\$60	Every 2 years
Batteries (hearing aids and mobility devices)	\$250	In a 12 month period	\$250	In a 12 month period
Braces for Mobility and/or Support Ankle Brace, Knee Brace, Elbow Brace, Wrist Brace, Leg Brace, Back Lumbar Sacral Support, Patella Stabilizer, Corest Back Brace, Internal Elevation to Custom Brace, Air Brace	\$500	Every 3 years	\$500	Every 3 years
Breast pumps	\$200	Per child, onetime	\$200	Per child, onetime
Canes	\$100	Every 3 years	\$100	Every 3 years
Casts Fiberglass, Air Cast or Air Splint	As per estimate	As required	As per estimate	As required
Crutches	\$60	Every 5 years	\$75	Every 5 years
Compressors (i.e. Sleep apnea & asthmatics)	\$500	Every 5 years	\$500	Every 5 years

Item	Previous		Revised (Effective 2014)	
	Amount (up to)	Frequency	Amount (up to)	Frequency
Hearing Aids & Personal FM Systems	\$900 per ear	Every 5 years	\$1,000 per ear	Every 5 years
Mastectomy Supplies			\$300	As required
Orthopedic (Orthotics)	\$400	Every 3 years	\$500	Every 3 years
Mobility Device Repairs	\$500	Every 2 years	\$500	Every 2 years
Splints - specialized splints not covered by OHIP	As per estimate	As required	As per estimate	As required
Support/Compression Stockings	\$250	In a 12 month period	\$250	In a 12 month period
Lice Treatments	As per estimate	As required	As per estimate	As required
Moving & Storage				
Moving (Singles/Couples)	\$200	Every 2 years	\$200	Every 2 years
Moving (Families with Children)	\$400	Every 2 years	\$400	Every 2 years
Storage	\$200	Every 12 months	\$200	Every 12 months
Appliances				
Refrigerator	\$300	Every 5 years	\$450	Every 5 years
Stove	\$200	Every 5 years	\$400	Every 5 years
Washer	\$300	Every 5 years	\$400	Every 5 years
Dryer			\$400	Every 5 years
Appliance Repairs For Refrigerator, Stove, Washer or Dryer	\$200	Once in a 12 month period/appliance	\$200	Once in a 12 month period/appliance
Repair Estimate (for above items)	\$30	Once in a 12 month period/appliance	\$30	Once in a 12 month period/appliance
Beds				
Twin Complete Bed	\$300	Every 5 years	\$350	Every 5 years
Twin Mattress Only	\$200	Every 5 years	\$250	Every 5 years
Twin Boxspring	\$100	Every 5 years	\$100	Every 5 years
Double Complete Bed	\$300	Every 5 years	\$400	Every 5 years
Double Mattress Only	\$200	Every 5 years	\$300	Every 5 years
Double Boxspring	\$100	Every 5 years	\$100	Every 5 years
Bunkbeds	\$320	Every 5 years	\$700	Every 5 years
Sofa bed/futon (in lieu of bed)	\$200	Every 5 years	\$300	Every 5 years
Bed Bug Mattress Cover	\$150	Every 5 years	\$150	Every 5 years
Cribs				
Complete Crib Set (New and CSA Safety Approved)	\$188	Once per child	\$350	Once per child
Crib Only (New and CSA Safety Approved)	\$109	Once per child	\$250	Once per child
Mattress Only	\$79	Once per child	\$100	Once per child