



Important update and procedures for accessing Financial Assistance

Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (PWA) is pleased to announce that our Financial Assistance Program will be available for a limited time commencing at **10:00 AM November 30th, 2009**. The Program is available to all PWA Clients on a limited basis.

During our 22 year history, PWA has understood and responded to the financial challenges that many people living with HIV/AIDS struggle with on a daily basis. Our current Financial Assistance Program helps alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with living with HIV/AIDS. The program reimburses Clients for uninsured medical treatment costs, supplements, government income benefits for people applying for long-term disability programs and assists with the costs of care for HIV positive children and HIV positive seniors.

How to Access Financial Assistance Funds:

To ensure equitable access, Financial Assistance for the November 30th release has been grouped into two Financial Assistance Categories:

Category 1

- Positive Senior's Fund
- Positive Children's Fund
- Medical Disability Fund

Category 2

- Medical Assistance Fund
- Supplemental Therapies Fund
- Trillium Co-Payment Fund

Funds within **Categories 1** may be applied for on November 30th by leaving a phone message at extension 260 or in person. B&A Case Managers will consider all applications on a first come first serve basis and approve based on eligibility and availability of funds.

Funds within **Category 2** may be applied for on November 30th by bringing in and depositing eligible receipts in the Financial Assistance Drop Box at PWA Reception. All receipts will be date and time stamped at a special Financial Assistance reception station to the right of the elevator prior to being deposited in the Financial Assistance Box. **NOTE: Only receipts with dates from November 1st 2009 forward and properly dated and time stamped at the time of presentation will qualify for Financial Assistance.**

To ensure fairness of access to limited funds, PWA will only accept Category 2 receipts on November 30th 2009. Receipts submitted prior to November 30th 2009 **will not be eligible and will be returned.**

Fund Guidelines:

Guidelines setting out what Financial Assistance Funds cover and amounts of coverage in each Fund are attached below. Please carefully review these guidelines to ensure you apply for the fund or funds most beneficial to you.

The Financial Assistance Program, as part of the PWA income Support Programs, continues to be a critical direct practical support service that PWA Staff and Board are committed to offering as a cornerstone of our work and our strategic directions. We know that it is a key aspect of making a positive difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. PWA remains committed to replenishing the financial resources for the Program to ensure its continued availability to all PWA Clients.

If you would like additional information, please contact a PWA Benefits and Assistance Case Manager , Greg Downer, Service Access Manager at ext 203, Rick Lees, Director, Programs and Services at ext 204 or myself, Murray Jose, Executive Director at ext 218.

Sincerely,



Murray Jose
Executive Director

Financial Assistance for Medical and Treatment Costs

Maximum Limit: \$300 between April 1st – March 31st

A maximum of \$300 can be used between April 1st – March 31st of every year. Once a client has reached their \$300 maximum they must wait until the following April 1st to begin receiving financial assistance again. Funds not used during any year cannot be carried over to the next.

Eligible Costs:

50% reimbursement will be considered within clients' \$300 limit for:

- Medical procedures and supplies
- Supplementary therapies (includes emergency veterinary costs and medicinal marijuana)
- Trillium Drug Program quarterly deductible (clients must submit quarterly receipts and have copy of recent Trillium enrolment letter on file)
- Medicinal Marijuana:
 - \$50 maximum reimbursement per month within the \$300 maximum between April 1st – March 31st.
 - Clients must provide a written recommendation of the use of medicinal marijuana from their doctor or naturopath practitioner.
 - PWA will only honor receipts from the government or Toronto buyers' clubs that have a service agreement with PWA.
 - Receipts must include client name, quantity, cost, member # and date.
 - Buyers' clubs are aware of our guidelines. Make sure to ask for a receipt when making a purchase.

How to Apply for Medical and Treatment Financial Assistance:

Please submit your receipts on November 30th 2009:

- Within 30 days of the date on the receipt;
- In the Financial Assistance station to the right of the elevator – be sure to include your name, phone number, case manager and have the receptionist stamp your receipts with the date and time of drop-off;
- Financial Assistance that has been approved will be ready for pick up after 2pm on Wednesday December 9th 2009 after 2pm from PWA reception desk

Financial Assistance When Applying for Long-Term Disability

Amount: \$150 for Individuals or \$200 for Families monthly for a maximum of 2 months or until long-term benefits begins, whichever occurs first. Clients can access this program every 5 years.

Eligible clients must be:

- Currently on Ontario Works, Employment Insurance or Medical Employment Insurance and
- Actively applying for a long-term disability program including Canada Pension Plan and Ontario Disability Support Program;

Access by:

- In person at the PWA office or by leaving a voice message at extension 260 on November 30th 2009

Positive Children Fund

Amount: \$200 between April 1st – March 31st

Eligible children must be:

- HIV positive
- Registered clients of PWA;
- Under the age of 18.

Access by:

- In person at the PWA office or by leaving a voice message at extension 260 on November 30th 2009

Positive Seniors Fund

Amount: \$200 between April 1st – March 31st

Eligible clients must be:

- HIV positive
- Registered clients of PWA;
- 65 years old and older;

Access by:

- In person at the PWA office or by leaving a voice message at extension 260 on November 30th 2009

PWA strives to provide equitable programming for all PWA clients within limited resources. To this end, all requests for Financial Assistance must fall within the stated guidelines. Emergency requests that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered. These guidelines reflect anticipated revenues and are subject to change without notice. Clients must provide written verification of their HIV status, live in the City of Toronto and have a postal code that starts with the letter M. Requests that cannot be granted in full will not be considered for future reimbursement.