



March, 2010

Important update and procedures for accessing Financial Assistance

The Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (PWA) is pleased to announce that our Financial Assistance Program will be available in 2010/2011 beginning April 1st, 2010 and that we have been able to **increase the budgeted amount available for this program**. We have worked hard to increase the amount of money available for this program in 2010/2011 and to ensure that it is available in the most fair and equitable manner possible.

During our 23 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 2010/2011 has been simplified and grouped into two Financial Assistance Categories:

Category 1

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

Category 2 – Medical & Treatment Financial Assistance Fund

- Medical Assistance
- Supplemental Therapies
- Trillium Co-Payment

Funds within **Category 1** may be applied for beginning on April 1st through your Benefits & Assistance Case Manager. Benefits & Assistance 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 beginning on April 1st by discussing/reviewing with a Benefits & Assistance Case Manager. By discussing your needs with staff, they will be able to assist you to identify any other possible sources for reimbursement or access to required services. This will help you to get the things you need while accessing PWA's Financial Assistance program only when no other funding is available and when you most need it.

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 and discuss with a Benefits & Assistance Case Manager 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. We have planned and stabilized the 2010/2011 program in such a way that it will be more **available throughout the entire year**. While still somewhat limited, PWA remains committed to providing significant 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 & 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

Toronto People With AIDS Foundation
Financial Assistance Guidelines
April 1' 2010 – March 31, 2011

PWA's Financial Assistance program helps alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with living with HIV/AIDS and aims to **support the health and wellness of people living with HIV/AIDS**. The program reimburses clients for uninsured medical and 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.

For more information about the Financial Assistance Program, please contact a Benefits & Assistance Case Manager.

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:

- **Medication expenses** not covered by other sources – this includes expenses paid towards the Trillium Drug Program deductible (a copy of current enrollment letter is required);
- **Basic dental** expenses not covered by other sources;
- **Optical**– up to \$200 every 24 months;
- **Supplementary therapies** - includes veterinary costs (emergency related costs only), complementary therapies and medicinal marijuana;
 - 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:

Access by:

- Contacting a Benefits & Assistance Case Manager to discuss options and needs and where applicable submit eligible receipts within 30 calendar days of the date on the receipt;

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 once every 5 years if required.

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, Old Age Security and Ontario Disability Support Program;

Access by:

- Meeting monthly with your Benefits & Assistance Case Manager.

Positive Children's 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:

- Contacting a Benefits & Assistance Case Manager

Positive Senior's Fund

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

Eligible clients must be:

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

Access by:

- Contacting a Benefits & Assistance Case Manager

All Financial Assistance cheques will be issued once a month on the 15th of the month following the request/approval and cheques not picked up within 30 days will be cancelled (e.g. Reimbursement for April Financial Assistance requests will be issued on May 15th).

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. In order to access this program, 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.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2010/2011

Month Closes	Cheques Ready for Pick Up
Friday April 30th	Monday May 17th
Monday May 31st	Tuesday June 15th
Wednesday June 30th	Thursday July 15th
Friday July 30th	Monday August 16th
Tuesday August 31st	Wednesday September 15th
Thursday September 30th	Friday October 15th
Friday October 29th	Monday November 15th
Tuesday November 30th	Wednesday December 15th
Friday December 31st	Monday January 17th
Monday January 31st	Tuesday February 15th
Monday February 28th	Tuesday March 15th
Thursday March 31st	Friday April 15th