

Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers

General Principle

The Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) category provides assistance to recipients who have long-term barriers to employment that are not expected to be overcome in the short term.

PPMB clients are exempt from employment obligations.

An earnings exemption is available to encourage clients who want to work to try employment, gain experience, participate more fully in the community as they are able, and earn more income. Family units where one or both recipients are eligible for PPMB may be provided a higher support rate and additional supplements.

The PPMB category cannot be assessed for spouses of recipients with the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation. PPMB eligibility is assessed using a single two-part application form.

It is recognized that some clients in this category may overcome their barriers over time and improve their employability while others may not. Some may have health conditions that worsen over time and require additional supports. This is why the PPMB category provides clients with time and supports to overcome their barriers and move towards independence, or transition to other client categories, including PWD designation.

Policy

July 1, 2019

Recipients who qualify for Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) are those who meet **one of** the following criteria:

- Has a health condition that has lasted for at least 1 year and is likely to continue for at least 2 more years OR
- has a health condition that has occurred frequently in the past year and is likely to continue for at least two more years. This health condition is a barrier that seriously impedes a person's ability to search for, accept or continue in employment

AND

- Has at least one additional barrier (listed under Barriers to Employment, below) that seriously impedes the person from search for, accepting or continuing in employment.

Health Condition

July 1, 2019

An approved health professional is a:

- Medical practitioner
- Nurse practitioner
- Registered psychologist
- Registered nurse or registered psychiatric nurse
- Occupational therapist
- Physical therapist
- Registered social worker
- Chiropractor
- Registered clinic counsellor in good standing with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors
- School psychologist (as defined by the *Independent School Act* or the *School Act*)

Definition of 'Seriously Impedes'

A health condition is considered to seriously impede the recipient's ability to search for, accept, or continue in employment when, as a result of the health condition, the recipient is unable to participate in any type of employment that would enable independence from income assistance.

When determining if the health condition seriously impedes employment, the information provided by the health professional in Section 1 of the PPMB application form should be taken into consideration:

- impact of the health condition on the recipient's ability to work full-time or only part-time
- impact of the health condition on the recipient's ability to work on a regular or sporadic basis

Barriers to Employment

July 1, 2019

The recipient has at least one additional barrier that seriously impedes the recipient's ability to search for, accept, or continue in employment. A barrier is considered to seriously impede the recipient's ability to search for, accept, or

continue in employment when, because of the barrier, the recipient is unable to participate in employment that would enable independence from income assistance or that requires an accommodation to obtain or maintain employment.

Barriers that seriously impede employment are:

- Currently experiencing homelessness or having experienced homelessness in the past 12 months
- Currently experiencing domestic violence or having experienced domestic violence in the past 6 months
- Less than Grade 12 education
- Needing English language skills training
- Not having basic skills for employment
- Having a Criminal Record
- Having accessed emergency health, mental health or addiction services multiple times within the past 12 months
- Recent Convention refugee (within the past 24 months) or currently a refugee claimant
- Former Child in Care (Ministry of Children and Family Development or Designated Aboriginal Agency)
- Other severe barrier to employment listed on their application

Review Period:

Reviews will be completed in exceptional circumstances, for example if the administering authority has been supplied with inaccurate or new information. PPMB is not a permanent category and the administering authority has the authority to review a person's eligibility for PPMB.

PPMB Clients Approved Prior to July 1, 2019

All eligible existing PPMB cases should be updated with an expiry date of July 1, 2099.

New medical information or documentation may be requested to update the file.

Example: John was approved for PPMB in July 2017, and his medical information at the time stated that his medical condition was likely to last 2 years. As the expiry date is approaching, the BSDW may request a new application be completed to ensure that John's health condition is still an existing barrier to employment.

A family unit where one adult is eligible for PPMB may be eligible for the following:

- Higher social assistance rate (see Chapter 4, Rate Table for Social Assistance);
- Enhanced medical coverage for **eligible non-status clients** (see Chapter 10, Health Benefits);

- Dental care for **eligible non-status clients** (see Chapter 10, Health Benefits); and
- Earnings exemptions (see Chapter 4.9, Earnings and Exemptions)

Note: Enhanced medical benefits are only available to non-status income assistance recipients who meet the BC Medical Services Plan requirements for coverage. If applicable, see Chapter 10, Health Benefits.