

## 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.

## Procedures

Eligibility	Documentation and Forms
Applicant or Recipient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons with Persistent Multiple barriers (PPMB) Form (SA 116)</li> <li>• <i>Budget and Decision Form</i> (901-25)</li> <li>• <i>Application for Social Assistance</i> (901-27)</li> <li>• <i>Social Assistance Monthly Renewal Declaration</i> (901-28) - <b>If the client has no changes to declare, then a monthly report does not have to be submitted.</b></li> <li>• Copies of required identification</li> <li>• Copy of Family Maintenance documents (see chapter 4.4, Family Unit)</li> <li>• Written confirmation from the child's Social Worker for placement and approval (as required)</li> <li>• <i>Income Assistance Report</i> (DCI #455897)</li> <li>• All other required income assistance documents</li> </ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Assistance Report (DCI #455897)</li> <li>• BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society <a href="http://www.bcands.bc.ca/">http://www.bcands.bc.ca/</a></li> <li>• Recipient Reporting Guide <a href="http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1385559716700/1385559777677">http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1385559716700/1385559777677</a></li> <li>• Ministry of Children and Family Development <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/children-and-family-development">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/children-and-family-development</a></li> <li>• Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction on-line resource <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual</a></li> <li>• Fees for Health Professionals &amp; Service Providers Rate table (as per Province of BC) <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/bc-employment-and-assistance-rate-tables/fees-for-health-professionals-and-service-providers-rate-table">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/bc-employment-and-assistance-rate-tables/fees-for-health-professionals-and-service-providers-rate-table</a></li> </ul>

**Determining Eligibility for PPMB**

July 1, 2019

**Step 1: Request for PPMB Assessment**

If a request for a PPMB Application is received, the BSDW must confirm if the person is eligible as a recipient of income assistance or hardship assistance.

The PPMB Application Form (SA 116) may not be provided if the person is not eligible for income assistance or hardship assistance, or if they or their spouse has the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation.

If it is determined the person is not eligible to apply for PPMB, BSDW must advise that the decision to not provide a PPMB application form may be reconsidered.

**Step 2: Provide the Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers Application Form (SA 116)**

If the recipient is eligible to apply for PPMB, provide the Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers Application Form (SA 116). Advise the recipient to have Section 1 completed by a health professional, and Section 2 is to be completed by the recipient, as noted on the form.

Once the recipient has returned the completed Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers Application form (SA 116), process up to \$50 payment to the physician for completion of the report (as per invoice in the application). The form completion fee is charged to the Basic Needs budget (not Special Needs budget) to be covered by the Income Assistance Program.

Place the application form in the file.

**Step 3: Initial Adjudication**

The BSDW adjudicates the PPMB application form (SA 116). In reviewing the health condition and information, the adjudicator must be able to confirm 4 criteria:

- Criteria 1: the health condition has lasted for at least one year or occurred frequently in the past year
- Criteria 2: the health condition is likely to continue for at least two more years
- Criteria 3: Must have a health condition that is a barrier, that seriously impedes the recipient's ability to search for, accept, or continue in employment.

- Policy: 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 medical condition seriously impedes employment, the following factors should be taken into consideration:
  - Impact of the medical condition on the recipient's ability to work full-time or only part-time
  - Impact of the medical condition on the recipient's ability to work on a regular or sporadic basis
- Criteria 4: The recipient must identify a barrier they have that seriously impedes their ability to search for, accept, or continue in employment.
  - Homelessness – currently experiencing homelessness or have experiences homelessness in the past 12 months
  - Domestic violence – currently experiencing domestic violence or having experienced domestic violence in the past 6 months
  - In need of English language skills training
  - Not having basic skills for employment
  - Criminal Record
  - Less than Grade 12 education
  - Have accessed emergency health, mental health or addiction services multiple times in the past 12 months
  - Recent Convention refugee (within the past 24 months) or currently a refugee claimant
  - Former Child in Care – a former child in care of the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development or an equivalent agency in another jurisdiction in Canada (e.g. Delegated Aboriginal Agency)
  - Other severe barrier(s) to employment

The BSDW will complete the PPMB Checklist and Decision (SA 117) form and advise the recipient of the decision.

Note: the BSDW may clarify with the BSDW or health professional if needed because the application form does not provide enough information for assessment for eligibility

If PPMB is approved:

1. The BSDW sends in writing the decision to the recipient.
2. PPMB status is effective the first of the month **following** approval.

If PPMB is denied:

1. The BSDW sends in writing the decision to the recipient to advise of the reasons for the denial and the right to appeal.

### **PPMB benefits from BC MSDPR – Moving On Reserve**

Individuals moving on-reserve who were receiving PPMB assistance from the BC MSDPR the month prior to applying for social assistance will be assigned the PPMB category, provided all other eligibility criteria are met.

Applicants who were receiving PPMB income assistance from the BC MSDPR the month prior to applying for ISC's social assistance may be assigned the PPMB category. They are required to provide the Band Social Development Worker (BSDW) with a written confirmation of their PPMB category and the expiry date, from MSDPR.

### **Returning to Social Assistance**

July 1, 2019

Clients in the PPMB category at the time when their case was closed can be reassessed for PPMB on reapplication if they have been off assistance for longer than 24 months. These clients should submit a new PPMB Application Form (SA 116).

Former PPMBs who reapply for assistance within 24 months of leaving assistance retain their PPMB category.



**Documentation Required****Effective: March 1, 2023**

The following documents and forms must appear in the client's file:

- Application for Social Assistance (901-27);
- Budget and Decision Form (901-25);
- PPMB Application Form (SA 116);
- Invoice for physician for completing the form
- Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) Checklist & Decision Form (SA 117);
- Copies of any correspondence, reports or documents, (e.g. BC MSDPR confirmation of PPMB, that directly relate to the application for PPMB benefits);
- Social Assistance Monthly Renewal Declaration (901-28)

**If the client has no changes to declare, then a monthly report does not have to be submitted.**

**Continuing Eligibility**

In order to continue to receive social assistance, applicants and recipients must continue to meet all eligibility requirements for social assistance.

Persons in continuous receipt of PPMB benefits shall have their financial eligibility reviewed annually, or upon any change in circumstances.

**Budget and Decision Form (901-25)****Effective: March 1, 2023**

The Budget and Decision Form (901-25) is to be completed in full and document the benefit decision as follows:

1. Comment section – indicate:
  - a. “PPMB”
  - b. The type of need being provided (i.e., income assistance)
  - c. The amount of shared shelter and show the family units portion for each eligible item (see chapter 5.1 Shelter Allowances Overview)
2. Under Monthly Requirements section –write the amount for each benefit and sub-total each category:
  - a. (A) Basic, (B) Shelter, and (D) Special
    - i. Items not applicable write N/A or put a strike through to show reviewed
  - b. Under Resources, enter the amount of each item in categories (1) Earned Income, (2) Income from Self-Employment (3) Unearned Income (4) Recovery and total all items to determine the total monthly deduction amount (5)
    - i. Items not applicable write N/A or put a strike through to show reviewed
    - ii. Enter amount of Foster Home payment under (3) and copy of cheque or bank statement required to verify payment
  - c. Enter the amount of (5) from Resource section to Less Deductions under Monthly Requirements
  - d. Monthly Entitlement amount to be issued
3. Under Temporary Allowance Issued by Administering Authority section enter:
  - a. the unit size (i.e., family unit size)
  - b. the amount entitled
  - c. the from and to dated (i.e., April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016)
4. Any section not applicable like Transfer to Band Work Project (i.e., WOP)
  - a. write N/A or put a strike through to show reviewed
5. Signatures of both the recipient and Administering Authority required.

6. If the 'From and To' date are for entire fiscal year. A new B&D Form (901-25) needs to be prepared only when a change occurs as:
  - a. the *Monthly Renewal Declaration* (901-28)  
PPMB clients or clients who are in a special care facility will only need to submit a monthly report when there is a change in circumstance or income to declare from the previous month. If the client has no changes to declare, then a monthly report does not have to be submitted.
  
7. All expenditures must have the required documentation attached to the B&D form.

### **DCI # 455897 – INCOME ASSISTANCE REPORT**

The *Administering Authority* is to report all expenditures and caseload information on the Income Assistance Report DCI #455897.