

Clearinghouse Q & A – Response Sheet

Topic: Back-To-School and Winter Clothing Allowances as Discretionary Benefits

Issue # 1287

Date: May 15, 2008

Question:

How do OW and ODSP staff help those who may have challenges transitioning during the first year of the OCB implementation?

Response:

In support of the implementation of the OCB, the Back-To-School and Winter Clothing Allowances will be rolled into the overall OCB. Families on social assistance will also begin receiving the full National Child Benefit Supplement.

Some families on social assistance may experience challenges transitioning during the few months of implementation, but will be better off through the year and even further ahead in the long term with the full implementation of the OCB. Families facing short-term transition challenges should be considered a priority.

Administrators have the discretion to provide special services, items or payments for:

- health-related purposes where the Administrator has made a determination of need; and
- non-health related purposes on a case-by-case basis up to a maximum of \$250.

Legislative Reference(s):

Section 59 of the Ontario Works Regulation 134/98

Policy Reference(s):

Ontario Works Policy Directive 7.7: Other Benefits
Ontario Works Bulletin 2008-04