

Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA)

ESIA Program Information

Everyone needs help sometimes.

Some of us need help for a few months and others need help for a longer time. Everyone's situation is different.

When you are in financial need, this program may help.

This program helps with:

- basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter
- training to help you get ready for work and get a job
- special needs like child care, medicine, transportation, emergency dental care, and eye glasses

Who can apply for Employment Support and Income Assistance?

You can apply if you:

- live in Nova Scotia
- are 19 or older
- are 16, 17, or 18 under special circumstances

You must show that:

- You need financial help to cover your basic needs.
- Your monthly income is less than the amount the ESIA program allows for basic expenses. This amount cannot include debts, like a credit card payment.
- You have looked for all other sources of potential income. This could include Canada Pension, child or spousal support, job opportunities, or Employment Insurance that may be available to you.

Get help with basic needs and special needs

If eligible, you could get money or services for your basic and special needs:

- **Basic needs** – You get income support for basic food, clothing, and shelter. Shelter includes rent or mortgage, heat, and electricity.
- **Special needs** – If you have a special need, tell us. You may qualify for other support. Some examples are listed here.

Do you have a special health or medical need?

Tell us if you have a special health or medical need:

- Special diet - additional funding may be provided if your doctor says you require a specific diet because of your medical condition.
- Medical transportation – to get to a doctor or hospital
- Medical equipment or supplies
- Eye exam
- Glasses
- Emergency dental
- Pharmacare or drugs – both prescription and non-prescription
- Telephone – if you need one for health and safety reasons
- Other health needs, like an ambulance, board and lodging while you get medical care, a maternal allowance if you have had a baby, foot care or orthotics, or hearing aids

Do you need help to get ready for a job?

If you need help to get ready for a job or find a job, you could be supported with:

- Employment training skills – like job preparation or interview skills
- Upgrading – like getting your high school diploma (GED) or learning to read
- On the job work experience
- Program at a community college or university, or to get a certification – in some cases
- Career assessment – to help you figure out what kind of job matches your skills

- Job search support – to help you look for work
- Child care or transportation – to allow you to get to your job or your school
- Work-related expenses – like clothes you need for work (uniforms, office attire), safety equipment (hard hat, work boots), and tools (mechanical, carpentry, or electronic tools)
- Other things you might need to get a job – like help to pay fees for a driver's license, criminal record check, pardon, or help to pay association, professional, licensing dues that you need to keep your credentials

Do you have other special needs?

Tell us if you have any other special need:

- Funeral and burial – help for the cost of a funeral or service, like professional services, merchandise, and taxes
- Property insurance – like the costs for fire and liability insurance if you own your own home
- Security or damage deposits – so you can rent a place to live
- Moving expenses – help with moving costs within NS in special cases, like your home is unsafe, or to get lower rent, or to move closer to a job or training
- Emergency heat
- Housing repair
- Furniture – like a crib, bed, washer, or stove

What are the ESIA rates? How much am I eligible for?

**There are limits to the financial supports available.
The amount you get depends on your individual
or family circumstances.**

Current rates are shown on the ESIA
webpages: [novascotia.ca/coms/
employment/income_assistance/BasicAssistance.html](https://novascotia.ca/coms/employment/income_assistance/BasicAssistance.html)

How do I apply for ESIA?

**Contact the nearest Community
Services office.**

Call **1-877-424-1177 (toll free)**
Website: [novascotia.ca/coms/
employment/income_assistance/HowtoApply.html](https://novascotia.ca/coms/employment/income_assistance/HowtoApply.html)

**We're here to help. Please reach out if you
have questions or would like to learn more.**

Visit: novascotia.ca/coms