

# 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, 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: [https://novascotia.ca/coms/employment/  
basic-needs-assistance/](https://novascotia.ca/coms/employment/basic-needs-assistance/)

## How do I apply for ESIA?

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](https://novascotia.ca/coms)