ihc IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Information Sheet #11

What financial help can I get?

There are many forms of financial assistance available to help with the costs of living with a disability or caring for someone who has a disability. It is important to find out what help you might be entitled to. You will need the following items for your meeting with Work and Income New Zealand:

- A letter from Inland Revenue showing **your IRD number.**
- **Your birth certificate** (or your child's birth certificate).
- **Identification (ID)** – this can be a bank card, passport, driver licence etc.
- **Bank account details** (if you do not have a bank account, you need to open one).
- **Details of your income,** if you have an income.
- Details about the **costs** you pay because of your/your child's/your partner's disability.
- If you are applying for the **Disability Allowance and the Child Disability Allowance,** your doctor must fill in part of the application form. You will need to bring this to the meeting with Work and Income.

Be prepared. Bring everything you need to your meeting. However, if you do not have all of the information above, it is important that you still attend your appointment with Work and Income.

Financial Assistance	Description	Income assessed	Information
Car Modification Funding	Help with the cost of buying or modifying a car for people who have a serious disability.	Yes	The Ministry of Health will decide whether you are in need of this funding.
Child Care Subsidy	Help with the cost of preschool childcare.	Yes	The child must be under six years if you get a Child Disability Allowance and attending an early childhood programme for three or more hours a week.
Child Disability Allowance	Recognition of the extra care needed for a child with a severe disability.	No	
Civilian Amputee Assistance	Funding towards the costs for visits to the Artificial Limb Centre.	No	If you have lost a limb in an accident, contact Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) for details.
Community Services Card	Help towards the costs of health care with reductions on some health services and prescriptions.	Yes	If you cannot get the Community Services Card, ask your pharmacist about the Prescription Subsidy Card or your doctor about a High Use Health Card.
Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of Sick or Infirm	Help with caring for someone at home who needs full-time care (not your spouse or partner).	Yes	If you have been caring for a dependent child, and any previous application for financial assistance was declined, you can apply for a retrospective (backdated) payment. Call Work and Income on 0800 559 009.

Financial Assistance	Description	Income assessed	Information
Domestic Purposes Benefit – Sole Parent	For sole parents with one or more dependent children.	Yes	
Domestic Purposes Benefit – Women Alone	For women over 50 who have lost the support of their partner or finished caring for a child or sick relative.		
Emergency Benefit	For those who are in hardship and who are unable to earn enough income for themselves (and any dependent family) and cannot get another benefit.	Yes	
Independent Youth Benefit	For 16 and 17-year-olds who are in secondary education, employment-related training, looking for work, or are sick, injured, disabled or pregnant and have lost the support of their parents.	Yes	
Invalids Benefit	For people who are severely limited in how much work they can do. This is because they have an ongoing sickness, injury, are completely blind or have a disability.	No	Your condition and how it affects your ability to work will need to be confirmed.
Modification Grant	Help with the costs of special equipment or changes to the work place for those with a disability.	No	
Sickness Benefit	For people who aren't working, or are working fewer hours, because they are sick, injured, disabled or pregnant.	Yes	You will need a medical certificate.
Special Disability Allowance	Funding towards the costs of visiting your partner if they are in hospital (for at least 13 weeks) or getting the Residential Care Subsidy.	Yes	You must be on a benefit to get this allowance.
Unemployment Benefit	Income support for people who are looking for work or training for work.	Yes	Rate of benefit depends on age, relationship status and any dependent children.

Contact Work and Income for more information on **0800 559 009** or visit **www.workandincome.govt.nz**

Contact your local Needs Assessment and Services Coordination (NASC) agency for further assistance or services you might be entitled to. A list of NASC's is on the Ministry of Health website www.moh.govt.nz

GPs, Practice managers and other health and disability providers can contact their local Health and Disability Coordinator (HDC) for advice and information on Work and Income programmes and processes. To locate your local HDC call **0800 559 009.**