

Emergency Needs Allowance

The Emergency Needs Allowance provides assistance when:

- a situation is caused by unforeseeable circumstances beyond your control, and
- it presents a severe health risk, and
- you cannot wait until the next Income Support benefit period, or
- you cannot access other resources

You can apply for the Emergency Needs Allowance if:

- you are a current Income Support client, or
- you are an Albertan earning an income, but you do not have enough money to cover a one-time, short-term emergency that will last no longer than a month, and
- you meet eligibility requirements

The Emergency Needs Allowance may cover emergency costs for:

- food
- damage deposit
- accommodation such as a hotel
- clothing
- child care
- transportation
- utility arrears - if you need the allowance for this more than once, you have to repay the costs
- eviction payments - if you need the allowance for this more than once, you have to repay the costs

Emergency costs that may be covered, then repaid by you:

- essential appliance repairs
- essential home repairs

Individuals must prove need, such as:

- an arrears statement or eviction notice
- a utility bill or statement for utility arrears
- proof from a reliable source that the item is essential, such as an unsafe wiring notice from the fire department

Find out if you are eligible by:

- contacting your Income Support worker if you are an Income Support client or the 24-hour contact centre at 1-866-644-5135 or 780-644-5135 in the Edmonton area
- discussing your situation with Alberta Works staff if you are not an Income Support client. Find an Alberta Works Centre by calling 1-866-644-5135 or 780-644-5135 in the Edmonton area weekdays from 8:15 a.m to 4:30 p.m. or visit humanservices.alberta.ca/ABWCentres