

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

Assisted Living and Social Services

Introduction

The Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program provides financial and health benefits to eligible Albertans with a permanent medical condition that substantially limits their ability to earn a living.

Benefits

Benefits include:

- A monthly living allowance to support costs such as food, rent and utilities.
- Health benefits for clients, their spouse/partner and any dependent child(ren).
- Personal benefits to meet specific needs, such as special diets or health supplies not covered by another health plan.
- A monthly child benefit to help with costs of raising dependent child(ren).
- Emergency assistance for situations such as fire, escaping family violence, utility disconnections, food spoilage, homelessness, or medical emergencies.

Eligibility

AISH recipients must meet **age, residence, medical and financial** eligibility criteria.

Age and residency criteria

To be eligible for AISH, an individual must be at least 18 years old and not eligible for federal Old Age Security payments. Individuals must live in Alberta and be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Medical criteria

To meet the medical criteria for AISH, an individual must have a permanent medical condition that severely limits the ability to work. There must be no medical treatment, therapy, rehabilitation or training available that would help improve the ability to earn a living.

Financial criteria

The AISH program also considers the income and assets of applicants and their spouse/partner when determining financial eligibility and ongoing eligibility for the program.

Some income and assets are exempt – this means it is not counted and does not affect the AISH monthly living allowance. It includes things like:

- a primary home
- one primary vehicle and one vehicle adapted to accommodate a disability
- Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

Some household income is partially exempt – this means it is counted as part of its value and may affect your AISH monthly living allowance. This includes things like:

- employment income
- severance pay
- rental income

AISH recipients and their spouse/partner can have a combined total of \$100,000 or less in non-exempt assets.

When applying for AISH, applicants and their spouse/partner must apply for all other income they may be eligible to receive, such as Canada Disability Benefit, Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits, Employment Insurance or Workers' Compensation Board benefits.

How to Apply

To apply, individuals must complete the AISH Application form, and a physician must complete the AISH Medical Report.

Albertans can find more information about the application process and/or apply online at: alberta.ca/aish-how-to-apply

To check on the status of an application, individuals can contact the AISH Application Processing Centre at 1-877-759-6810.

Contact Information

For more information about AISH, please contact the Alberta Support Contact Centre at: 1-877-644-9992

AISH clients can contact their local AISH or Alberta Supports office or find an office by visiting: alberta.ca/contact-aish.