

Fast Facts

ABORIGINAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT EMPLOYMENT TRAINING INITIATIVE (ASARET)

OBJECTIVE

The ASARET initiative is a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) for using existing authorities, services and programs to direct individual Social Assistance (SA) entitlement toward active measures such as employment skills and training.

HOW ASARET CAN BE DEVELOPED

There are ten Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreements (AHRDA) with First Nations organizations to develop, design, deliver and evaluate training and employment programs and services in broad geographical areas either directly or through sub-agreements with Aboriginal delivery agencies.

HOW THE FUNDING WORKS

Using the Work Opportunity Program social assistance transfer authority and mechanism, AHRDA funding can be supplemented by the SA entitlement of eligible SA recipients. The offset to AHRDA employment training costs is intended to increase access of SA recipients to AHRDA programs and allow for greater numbers of SA recipients to participate in AHRDA sponsored programs and interventions.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Individual client – participant files to have regular social assistance documentation and details of the ASARET program to support the amount of social assistance transferred. The following information is required:

- ♦ Determine and verify recipient's status as "non-insured participant" and place this documentation on the client's file; (Note: "Insured participants" are ordinarily not eligible for ASARET and should be referred for training support to the AHRDA).
- ♦ Verify recipient's acceptance into the program or intervention and start date. Place this documentation in the client's file.
- ♦ Once recipient's participation is confirmed and has begun:
 - Calculate recipient's entitlement (basic needs) and transfer this amount monthly to the AHRDA; or
 - Maintain recipient on SA while participating in the intervention in lieu of recipient receiving AHRDA living allowance.
- ♦ SA funds may not be transferred until recipient's participation in the project begins.

ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

CFA administering authorities report monthly SA Transfers on the Social Development Financial Statistical Report (SDFSR) form for reimbursement purposes.