

Moving Costs

General Principle

Under specific conditions, moving costs may be provided to eligible social assistance recipients (other than transients), who have no alternative funding.

Policy

Local Moves

Moving costs may be paid where a social assistance recipient is required to move from rental accommodation for one of the following documented reasons:

- owner of a home wishes to resume occupancy of home
- move to confirmed employment for a recipient who is not working
- proposed demolition of home
- destruction of home
- home considered unfit for habitation as deemed by local authorities
- for necessary health reasons

Recipients must obtain a minimum of two estimates from licensed cartage firms to move their belongings or the cost of a rental truck if the recipients are willing and able to move their own belongings themselves.

An allowance of up to \$500 may be approved to cover the actual essential costs of the move.

The administering authority does not pay for a person to move to British Columbia.

Moving costs *may not* be issued if:

- the recipient is moving off-reserve and there is suitable and reasonable accommodation on-reserve which is available to the recipient
- the recipient is currently living in on-reserve accommodation and wishes to move to other accommodation on-reserve, or to social housing for reasons other than those specified above

- recipients are evicted due to their own actions
- the applicant lives off-reserve and wishes to move on-reserve: such persons are responsible for their own arrangements

Repatriation

Costs of repatriation to a home community in Canada may be paid for a person who meets all the following conditions:

- repatriation must clearly be in the best interests of the applicant and dependents
- children not in the legal custody and care of adults are to be referred to the local Ministry for Children and Families, or the local First Nations Child and Family Services agency
- applicants must have a residence available in the community to which they are returning
- the applicant meets all general conditions of eligibility for social assistance

Recipients who move on their own initiative will not be reimbursed.

Shipping costs for heavy furniture or household goods will not be paid.

Only transportation, via the most economical means, of individuals and regular baggage allotment expenses may be covered.

Procedures

The administering authority must be assured that the applicant lacks resources to cover the moving costs, in whole or in part.

All issuances of special needs allowances for transportation purposes must be documented on the form *Budget and Decision Form (901-25)*, including signatures of both the client and the administering authority.

Case notes must outline the rationale for provision of the allowance, and documentation for all approved costs must be placed on the client's file.

Moving costs are charged to the special needs budget.

The special needs budget is a limited, fixed budget allocation, and all expenditures must be within annual available resources.