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Memorandum To:

Social Assistance Program Managers
Municipal Services Managers
Municipal Program Supervisors
Regional Program Managers, ODSP

Ontario Works Administrators

- Municipalities and DSSABs
- First Nations

From:

Patti Redmond
Director, Ontario Disability Support Program

Jeff Butler
Director, Ontario Works Branch

Re:

Special Purpose Payments for Crown Wards: The Living and Learning Grant and the 100% Tuition Aid for Youth Leaving Care Program

On June 25, 2013, the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU) announced that as of September 2013 the government would be partnering with more universities and colleges to help students who are current and former Crown wards pay for their post-secondary education. This assistance is in the form of the Living and Learning Grant (LLG) and the 100% Tuition Aid for Youth Leaving Care Program. Payments are provided by the MTCU through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

We are writing to advise you how to treat these payments for the purposes of social assistance (SA).

Grants for Crown Wards

OSAP provides a number of specific special purpose payments that are not considered in the usual OSAP assessment for education, transportation and living costs. These funds are not intended to reduce the amount of OSAP full-time funding that the student is eligible to receive. These are additional payments from OSAP for these students.

The Living and Learning Grant and the portion of funds provided by the school under the 100% Tuition Aid for Youth Leaving Care Program are considered special purpose payments specifically for Crown wards. These payments are fully exempt under SA and are not to be included in the calculation when determining the chargeable OSAP living allowance for the purposes of SA.

Living and Learning Grant (LLG)

The LLG is a grant from MTCU which provides financial aid to post-secondary students between the ages of 21 to 24 who are former Crown wards who received an Extended Care and Maintenance (ECM) Allowance or the Continued Care and Support for Youth (which has now replaced the ECM) allowance from a CAS.

The LLG is \$500 per month (flat rate) which is paid for each month in which a student is enrolled (for any period of time during that month) in full-time studies.

Please note that the LLG will not show up on the student's OSAP notice of assessment.

100% Tuition Aid for Youth Leaving Care Program

The 100% Tuition Aid program is a joint initiative between MTCU and participating publicly-assisted colleges and universities in Ontario and is available for up to four years of post-secondary study. This program is for students who are current and former Crown wards and/or students who are/were receiving an ECM Allowance or Continued Care and Support for Youth allowance from a CAS.

This program is not a single grant but a combination of payments (as described below) which will cover 100% of a student's tuition fees to a maximum of \$6,000.

50% of the funding for this program will be provided through a combination of:

- Ontario Access Grant;
- Ontario Access Grant for Crown Wards; and/or
- 30% off Ontario Tuition Grant through OSAP

The remaining 50% will be provided by the school.

The portion of funding provided by the school is considered a special purpose benefit for Crown Wards and is not included in the calculation of chargeable income for the purpose of SA. The funding provided by the three grants identified above is included in the calculation of chargeable income for purpose of SA as per current policy.

Treatment of Special Purpose Payments for Crown Wards

The **total** of all OSAP excluding any fully exempt special purpose grants included in the OSAP total **minus** the recipient's OSAP allowable education costs (or the recipient's actual verified education costs, if applicable) **equals** chargeable living allowance for the purpose of SA. **Please note:** The calculation below applies to both Ontario Works and ODSP, and assumes the ODSP recipient retains the OSAP living allowance.

Example:

OSAP Funding	Calculation
OSAP Allowable Education Cost on Assessment Summary Form : \$ 6,000	Actual verified education costs (provided by student): \$ 6,000 (a)
Total OSAP Funding \$15,000	Step 1: Subtract actual verified education costs (a) from total OSAP funding (not including special purpose grants): \$ 8,000
Special Purpose Payments:	(a) - <u>\$ 6,000</u>
Living and Learning Grant (\$500 x 8*) \$ 4,000	Equals SA Living Allowance (b) = <u>\$ 2,000</u>
Tuition fees paid by School <u>\$ 3,000</u>	
Total: <u>\$ 7,000</u>	
Other OSAP Funding:	Step 2:
Ontario Access Grant \$ 1,000	Divide (b) by the number of months in the study period to determine the monthly chargeable living allowance.
Ontario Access Grant for Crown Wards \$ 1,000	
30% Off Tuition Grant \$ 1,000	
OSAP Loan for Living Costs <u>\$ 5,000</u>	
Total: <u>\$ 8,000</u>	

*Assumes this student's program of study is 8 months in duration. LLG is \$500/month of study.

The Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Directive 5.11 – Post-Secondary Education and Ontario Works Policy Directive 3.8 –Post-Secondary Students are being revised and will be updated to reflect the treatment of loans/grants/bursaries (including the new grants and payment for former Crown Wards through MTCU.)

Please ensure that this memo is shared with staff within 48 hours.

Original signed by

Original signed by

Patti Redmond

Jeff Butler

- c. Jeff Bowen, Director, Social Assistance and Municipal Operations
 Kira Heineck, OMSSA
 Guy Dumas, ONWAA
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