

**Chapter 3: Assessment of Income**

**(ii) Non-exempt Income**

**(d) Income Support and Skills Development Benefits**

<b>Intent:</b>	The purpose of this section is to clarify the relationship between the Income Support Program and Skills Development Benefits, formally issued through Service Canada, now administered by the Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills.
<b>Act:</b> (if applicable)	N/A
<b>Regulations:</b>	<p><b>Definitions 8.</b> In this Part</p> <p>(c) "non-exempt income" means income received by an applicant or recipient for which no exemption applies and which is used in determining eligibility but does not include partially exempt income, and which may be obtained by means of (iii) income received from federal training allowances,</p>
<b>Overview:</b> (if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NL Skills Development Program provides training benefits to individuals who receive Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, or EI "Reach Back" clients (those who received EI in the past 60 months or made sufficient contributions to the EI program in five of the previous 10 years).</li> <li>• E.I. eligible or reach back recipients may be eligible to receive Skills Development benefits which would cover the cost of training (tuition, books, transportation and child care) as well as living expenses during the training period.</li> <li>• On November 2, 2009, the Province officially became responsible for administering E.I. - Part II, Skills Development Benefits, formerly provided through Service Canada.</li> <li>• Amounts negotiated for these benefits are based on the amount of previous EI benefits, and expenses incurred during the training program. The amount of these benefits allocated for living expenses should not be less than the benefits a client would have received on Income Support. Included in these amounts is funding to offset the cost of a co-pay amount for drugs for all family members under the Access Plan of the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP).</li> </ul>

<b>Policy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for living expenses under this program is considered non-exempt income and is deducted dollar for dollar from Income Support entitlement.</li> <li>• For current Income Support recipients, assistance can be issued up until the day clients receive their first Skills Development payment.</li> <li>• A person approved for Skills Development benefits would normally receive an amount at least equivalent to their previous Income Support (IS) benefits, making them ineligible for Income Support.</li> <li>• Client Services Officers should refer E.I. eligible and reach back recipients to Employment Services to determine eligibility for these benefits.</li> <li>• Income Support clients who leave the caseload to begin training under this program should be advised to apply to NLPDP under the Access Plan for drug coverage. The co-pay amount for the program will be considered as a financial cost under Skills Development and funding to offset the co-pay amount for the entire family will be included in the training allowance. Drug cards will <u>not</u> be provided by this department in these cases after Income Support benefits have ended.</li> <li>• More information on Skills Development benefits can be found on the <a href="#">website</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Procedure:</b>	N/A
<b>Authority Level:</b>	Client Services Office
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