

Chapter 2: Eligibility

(iv) Other Circumstances Affecting Eligibility

(g) Spouse Away – for Employment Purposes

Intent:	To clarify how a spouse away for employment purposes impacts Income Support eligibility
Act: (if applicable)	N/A
Regulations:	N/A
Overview: (if applicable)	N/A
Policy:	<p>(100) Spouse Away in Search of Employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a spouse in a family receiving Income Support benefits leaves home in search of employment, Income Support benefits can continue for the whole family for a maximum period of 30 days from the date the spouse left. • Beyond the 30 day period, approval of the Client Service Manager is needed to continue Income Support benefits if the spouse remains unemployed. The manager should consider what attempts have been made to secure employment and if there is a likelihood of employment being found in the near future. • In the case of applicants applying for benefits where the spouse has already left the home, regular eligibility rules apply and the spouse is not to be considered in the application for benefits. Where eligibility for benefits has been determined, assistance is only to be provided on a non-recurring basis and the spouse who is away from the family would be expected to support the family once employed. • There is no eligibility under the Income Support Program to pay the transportation costs to the area where employment is

being sought. These applicants/recipients should be referred to Employment Services.

(200) Spouse Away and Employed:

- Whether a spouse has employment secured at the time they leave or subsequently finds employment while away searching, Income Support benefits can be overlapped with income for a period of 30 days from the date employment begins. The family may also be eligible for the Job Start benefit.

- After the 30 day period has elapsed, any future eligibility will have to be determined based upon the income of the spouse and the need for a supplement. Income information must be verified by pay stubs or confirmation with the employer. Regular expenses and earnings exemptions can be considered as well as the boarding or rental costs of the spouse who is away. Board and lodging or rental costs should be consistent with the rates found in the Regulations but where higher costs are required to maintain the employment, the manager may approve higher expenses. In such cases, the spouse should remain an active recipient on the family file and the accommodation costs for the spouse who is away should be deducted as an expense from the income. In the case where rental costs are considered as an expense for the spouse who is away, no additional consideration will be given for a second issuance of family/individual benefits as the portion of benefits for the spouse who is away is considered in the family benefit provided to the spouse within the province.

- Where there is no eligibility for a supplement to income, the family should be provided with an extended drug card for a 12 month period. If the spouse is away from this province, NLPDP will not honour claims from pharmacies in another province.

Procedure: N/A

Authority Level:	Client Services Officer
	Client Services Manager – approval of accommodation expenses which are higher than the accommodation benefits provided in Regulations for the spouse who is away.

Date revised:	August 1, 2014
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