

Chapter 9: Special Needs Benefits

(x) Job Start Benefit

Intent:	To assist Income Support recipients with the transition from Income Support to employment and a long term attachment to the work force.
Act: (if applicable)	N/A
Regulations:	<p>19(1) Other monthly income support for which an applicant or recipient may be eligible is:</p> <p>(n) for a recipient with a dependent who begins employment, a payment of \$250 once in a 12 month period; and</p> <p>(o) for a recipient without a spouse, co-habiting partner or dependent who begins employment, \$125 once in a 12 month period.</p>
Overview: (if applicable)	<p>Income Support clients find the first month of employment difficult and it is often viewed as a disincentive/barrier to employment due to additional employment expenses, overlap of rent, change in payment cycles from semi-monthly to weekly or bi-weekly, child care costs, transportation costs, etc.</p> <p>This program will complement other programs available through the Income Support and Employment Services programs.</p>
Policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written confirmation of paid employment (full or part time), including the start date of the employment is required. • The benefit can be paid up to two weeks prior to the commencement of employment to provide an opportunity to prepare for the transition to work. • The Job Start benefit can only be issued once in a 12 month period, regardless of the number of employers/positions the recipient obtains in that 12 month period. This benefit is payable once/year to each adult client (if applicable); therefore, should two adults in the household obtain employment, they can both be issued this benefit. • This benefit can be provided to recipients who may also have an EI reach-back status. • This one time benefit can also be provided to eligible participants for Job Creation Partnerships (JCP). The Department supports

	<p>this initiative and will invest in these clients during their transition from Income Support benefits to employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients who become self-employed are also eligible for this benefit. • Dependent children and/or dependent student(s) are not eligible for the Job Start benefit. • Recipients obtaining employment under the Student Employment Summer Programs (High School Level I, II and III, SWASP paid employment component, SWASP community service component and Summer Career Placements (SCP)) are not eligible for the Job Start Benefit.
<p>Procedure:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain written verification of employment and the start date for the recipient. Where the client begins to operate a business, the documentation provided by the client regarding the business and the referral to Metro Business Opportunities will serve as verification of the start of employment. • For JCP clients, the sponsoring agency may provide some verification that the individual has been accepted on the project. Another option may be to use their EI stubs which would show the increase from the basic EI to the Enhanced Benefits provided under this process.
<p>Authority Level:</p>	<p>Client Service Officer</p>
<p>Date revised:</p>	<p>September 13, 2011</p>