

## Crisis Benefits

**Do you urgently need extra money for basics like clothes, shoes, food, rent, or utilities?**

**Will your health (or your family's) be in danger if you can't pay for these things?**

If you are on Income Assistance (IA) or Persons With Disability (PWD) assistance, you may be eligible for a crisis benefit from Welfare. A crisis benefit gives you extra money for something that you or your family need right away, but didn't plan for and can't afford.

### Step 1

- Make a list of what you need.
- For clothes or shoes, get three estimates of the cost to buy what you need.
- For food, make a list of the foods you need for your health or to take with medications.
- For rent, make sure you have your eviction notice
- For utilities like heat and power, make sure you have your recent utility bills and disconnection notice.

### Step 2

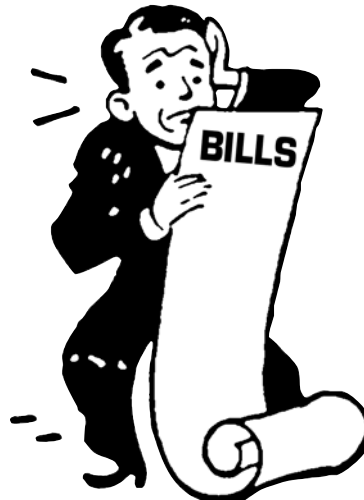
- Call your Worker or go to the Welfare office.
- Tell your Worker that you are in a crisis and that your health (and/or your family's) is in danger. Explain why you need extra money.
- Give your Worker the list of items that you need and/or copies of your eviction notice or utility bills.

### Step 3

- If your Worker says "yes", ask when you can pick up your cheque.
- If the money is for food or clothes, your Worker might give you a voucher instead of a cheque.
- If the money is for rent or utilities, Welfare might pay the amount you owe directly to the landlord or utility company.

### Step 4

- If your Worker says "no", call a BCPWA Advocate at 604.893.2223.



### Tip

You may be able to get a crisis benefit for some other emergency needs. Talk to your Worker.

### Tip

If you ask for crisis benefits six times in one year, you may be administered. If so, Welfare gives you part of your monthly cheque each week or every two weeks.

### Tip

In one calendar year, your total crisis benefits can only add up to twice the amount of your monthly disability cheque.

### Tip

Welfare limits the amount of money for certain items (e.g., \$20/month for food). There is no limit for essential utilities such as heat and hydro.

### Tip

Telephone service is not considered an essential utility.

For more information, please contact a BCPWA Advocate at 604.893.2223