

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SUPPLEMENT

OVERVIEW

Volunteering is an important part in the lives of individuals: it builds self-confidence, provides an opportunity for people to gain valuable work experience, and creates stronger communities.

Accordingly, we offer the Community Volunteer Supplement – worth up to \$100 per month – to eligible clients who volunteer for a minimum of 10 hours per month with a non-profit organization.

To be eligible for the Community Volunteer Supplement, clients must be receiving disability assistance, or must be in one of the categories of clients who have no employment-related obligations, such as single parents with a child under three or persons with persistent multiple barriers. However, Persons with Disabilities represent 96 percent of current recipients of the Community Volunteer Supplement.

In fact, this government more than doubled the budget for the Community Volunteer Supplement a few years ago – to over \$5 million this year – so that more clients, especially those with disabilities, can benefit from volunteer experience and participate in their communities.

We encourage clients with disabilities or multiple barriers to volunteer as they are able – even just a few hours a week – to help them improve their self-reliance and reach their goals.

The Community Volunteer Supplement also provides eligible clients the opportunity to supplement their regular assistance rates.

In December 2008, almost 6, 200 cases were receiving volunteer supplements.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SUPPLEMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Volunteer Supplements	
Intent	A community volunteer supplement is intended to cover the costs of clothing, transportation, and other expenses to allow a recipient to participate in a Community Volunteer Program.

Volunteer Supplements	
Waitlists for volunteer supplement	<p>The ministry is currently providing volunteer supplements to approximately 6,200 cases.</p> <p>A province wide waitlist system is now being used to manage the waitlist in a fair and equitable manner. There are over 3,000 people on the waitlist as of January 2009.</p> <p>We continue to look for options for increasing access to this popular program.</p>
Eligibility	<p>Persons with Disabilities represent 96 percent of current recipients of the Community Volunteer Supplement.</p> <p>Clients with no employment obligations are also eligible – e.g., single parents with children under three and Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers.</p> <p>Participants are expected to volunteer for a minimum of 10 hours/month.</p> <p>Eligibility for the Community Volunteer Supplement has recently been expanded to allow more than one person in a family unit to receive the supplement.</p>

STATISTICS / BUDGET

In December 2008, 6,227 cases were receiving the Community Volunteer Supplement.

	BUDGET 2006/07	EXPENDITURES 2006/07	BUDGET 2007/08	EXPENDITURES 2007/08	BUDGET 2008/09	BUDGET 2009/10
Community Volunteer Supplement	\$5.3M	\$4.4M	\$5.3M	\$5.7M	\$5.3M	\$5.3M

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09**
Cases Receiving CVS*	5,024	6,602	7,486

* Total number of cases who received the Community Volunteer Supplement at any time during the fiscal year.

** Data for fiscal 2008/09 included data up to December 2008.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON

- Other provinces incorporate volunteer activities into their clients' work plans.

MANITOBA	<p>Beginning in February 2009, persons with disabilities on EIA who do volunteer work will receive the following monthly supplement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 - volunteer at least four times per month
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100 - volunteer at least eight times per month |
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CROSS REFERENCE

- Disability Assistance – *All notes*

Data Definitions

Current caseload data:

- Source: MARS data on allowance code 11, Community Volunteer Program
- Includes all issues of Community Volunteer Program funds
- Timeframe: November 2008 data (most recent month available)
- Methodology: Assumes each issue in the month is a unique case

Program capacity data:

- Source: MARS data on allowance code 11, Community Volunteer Program
- Includes all issues of Community Volunteer Program funds
- Timeframe: April 2006 to March 2008
- Methodology: calculated average payment per issue (\$100), then extrapolated annual budget for each month (# issues x \$100 x 12 months) to determine earliest month during which maximum caseload was reached, based on budget of \$5.3 M.

Waitlist data:

- Source: Regional Performance Analysts or equivalent position
- Includes all persons on waitlist for program, sum of regional totals
- Timeframe: Waitlist data accessed January 15-20, 2009
- Methodology: Data pulled from Report 2 Web

Data Definitions

- Data sources - Cases receiving Code 11 from AllCodes table
- All issues of code 11 – Community Volunteer Program
- Timeframe – Apr 2007 – Dec 2008
- Distinct cases

Data Definitions

Annual case data:

- Includes all issues of Community Volunteer Program funds to unique cases
- Timeframe: fiscal year
- Methodology: **count each case only once, regardless of # of issues**

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE BRANCH
ESTIMATES BRIEFING NOTE 2010/11

ISSUE: Community Volunteer Supplement.

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Community Volunteer Supplement provides a supplement of up to \$100 a month to BC Employment and Assistance clients who do not have employment obligations.
- The supplement is intended to help volunteers offset the cost of clothing, transportation and other expenses necessary to perform their volunteer work.
- Due to the program's popularity and limitations on the program's budget, there is currently a waiting list for the supplement.
- Participation in December 2004 was approximately 1,400 cases.
- Participation in December 2009 was approximately 5,200 cases.

BACKGROUND:

- Clients eligible for the Community Volunteer Supplement include:
 - Persons with Disabilities;
 - Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers;
 - Single parents with a child under three years of age; and
 - Dependent children over 15 years of age.
- The 2006/2007 budget for the Community Volunteer Supplement was increased by \$3M to \$5.3M. Administration requirements for community agencies were significantly reduced at that time as well.
- In 2008 regulatory changes were implemented to increase access to the supplement by allowing more than one person in a family unit to receive it.
- Clients can receive the supplement for many years as there are no time limits on program participation.
- Volunteering provides eligible clients with an opportunity to participate in community life.
- A province wide system is used to manage the waitlist in a fair and equitable manner. There are about 5,800 people on the waitlist as of December 2009.
- In December 2009, 5,193 cases were receiving the Community Volunteer Supplement.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SUPPLEMENT

Community Volunteer Supplement Budget

(all figures in millions)	2007/08 (budget)	2007/08 (actual)	2008/09 (budget)	2008/09 (actual)	2009/10 (budget)	2010/11 (budget)
Budget/actual	\$5.3	\$5.7	\$5.3	\$8.0	\$4.9	\$5.3

Community Volunteer Caseload

	2006/07 (actual)	2007/08 (actual)	2008/09 (actual)	2009/10 (to date)**
Cases Receiving Community Volunteer Supplement*	5,024	6,602	7,846	6,449

* Total number of cases who received the Community Volunteer Supplement at any time during the fiscal year.

** Data for fiscal 2009/10 included data up to December 2009.

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY BRANCH
ESTIMATES BRIEFING NOTE 2011/12**

ISSUE: Community Volunteer Supplement

KEY MESSAGES:

- As an avid volunteer myself, I know how valuable volunteering is for participating in the community.
- The Community Volunteer Supplement encourages eligible income and disability assistance clients to volunteer by providing up to \$100 a month to help offset volunteering expenses such as clothing and transportation.
- British Columbia is one of only a few provinces that provide a supplement to clients who volunteer.
- In the past few years, the ministry has increased access to the Community Volunteer Supplement by raising the supplement's budget and expanding eligibility.
- Due to the program's tremendous popularity, access to the supplement must be balanced with the available annual budget.
- A waitlist has been used since 1992 to ensure fair and equitable access to the supplement within the funds available.
- The ministry is currently working on a number of potential options to improve the administration of the supplement and address the waitlist.
- Even while a client is on the waitlist, the ministry provides other programs and supports that can help offset the costs of volunteering, such as an annual subsidized bus pass for disability assistance clients and low-income seniors.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SUPPLEMENT

BACKGROUND:

- Clients eligible for the Community Volunteer Supplement include:
 - Persons with Disabilities;
 - Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers;
 - Single parents with a child under three years of age; and
 - Dependent children over 15 years of age.
- The 2006/07 budget for the Community Volunteer Supplement was increased by \$3M to \$5.3M. Administration requirements for community agencies were significantly reduced at that time as well.

Contact: Molly Harrington, ADM, Policy and Research
 Cell phone: s.17
 Date: April 21, 2011

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- In 2008 regulatory changes were implemented to increase access to the supplement by allowing more than one person in a family unit to receive it.
- Clients can receive the supplement for many years as there are no time limits on program participation.
- Clients waitlisted for the supplement are not prevented from volunteering.
- In February 2011, 4,272 cases were receiving the Community Volunteer Supplement.
- There are about 7,660 people on the waitlist as of February 2011. Eliminating the current waitlist would cost an additional \$8M annually.
- Concerns have been raised by clients and external stakeholders about the waitlists.

STATISTICS:

Community Volunteer Supplement Budget

2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
Budget	Expenditures	Budget	Expenditures	Budget	Expenditures*
\$5.3M	\$8.0M	\$4.9M	\$6.8M	\$5.3M	\$4.2M

*Data for fiscal 2010/11 included data up to February 2011.

Community Volunteer Caseload

	2007/08 (actual)	2008/09 (actual)	2009/10 (actual)	2010/11 (to date)*
Total number of cases who received the Community Volunteer Supplement at any time during fiscal year	6,602	7,846	6,467	5,018

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Only Alberta, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia provide a comparable supports.
- These provinces do not use waitlists, but the financial benefits are generally less than what BC provides.

Province	Supplement	Eligible Clients	Amount
Alberta	Actual cost of most economical means of transportation	Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped	Public transport costs OR \$0.30 per kilometer OR taxi fare
Manitoba	Monthly benefit	Persons with disabilities only.	\$50 (4 – 7 activities per month) OR \$100 (8+ activities)
Nova Scotia	Actual cost of most economical means of transportation	All clients	Actual transport cost (max. \$150 per month)

Not Responsive

From: Lofthouse, Jean C MSD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 11:03 AM
To: Eastwood, Ronnie MSD:EX; D'Gal, Judy MSD:EX; Williams, Wanda C MSD:EX; Butcher, David D MSD:EX; Harder, Kim MSD:EX; Kerby, Kathy P MSD:EX; Visram, Anar M MSD:EX
Subject: FW: Community Volunteer Supplement

Hi there,

I just spoke with **s.22** of **Together Against Poverty**, on Vancouver Island. 250 361 3521.
I gave her the numbers for the CVS wait list (2837) and number of active participants (1124), in Vancouver Coastal Region.
She also asked if clients could still be placed on the list, I assured her that eligible clients can.

Jean Lofthouse, Manager

Community Relations and Service Quality
Ministry of Social Development
Phone: 604-660-2212
Cell: 604 417-2646
Fax: 604 660-2503

From: Eastwood, Ronnie MSD:EX
Sent: Friday, July 8, 2011 4:13 PM
To: MSD Community Relations and Service Quality Managers
Cc: Williams, Wanda C MSD:EX; Kerby, Kathy P MSD:EX; Harder, Kim MSD:EX; D'Gal, Judy MSD:EX
Subject: Community Volunteer Supplement

Good afternoon. One of the regions received an enquiry from an advocacy group requesting the number of people on the CVS waitlist, as well as the ministry's ability to determine where a client fell numerically on that list.

If you receive any enquiries from advocacy groups in your area, please feel free to provide that information directly to them.

We wouldn't mind a quick e-mail letting us know which advocacy groups are requesting this information.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

Ronnie Eastwood
Policy and Project Analyst
Regional Operations Branch
Phone: 953-3269; Fax: 952-6450
(e-mail: ronnie.eastwood@gov.bc.ca)



Ronnie Eastwood
Policy and Project Analyst
Implementation and Stakeholder Relations Branch
Regional Operations Branch
Phone: 953-3269; Fax: 952-6450
(e-mail: ronnie.eastwood@gov.bc.ca)

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