

MANITOBA HIV PROGRAM PHA FUND GUIDELINES

Description:

The PHA Fund provides financial support to persons living with HIV in Manitoba for quality of life needs where no other source of income is available.

PHA Fund Application Notes:

- Only HIV-positive persons can make requests to the PHA Fund
- Requests must include: amount requested, why it is requested, and other resources sought
- The PHA Fund cannot pay for things that are funded by other programs or may be available elsewhere for free
- Requests must be signed by applicant
- The PHA Fund cannot provide ongoing assistance
- As usual practice, the PHA Fund will not provide financial assistance for bills such as those for telephone, utilities, cable television or Internet
- Whenever possible, applicants will be encouraged to consult with Nine Circles staff for assistance in completing the application
- When possible, cheques may be issued to the business or service where the item/service has been requested.
- All applicants are limited to **four (4)** requests per calendar year

Responses

- Requests are reviewed on the last Friday of the month and responses are available on the following Friday.
- Responses can be mailed to you or left with Nine Circles medical reception. Please indicate on your application how you would like to receive the response.
- The PHA Fund is not an emergency resource. If your request is an emergency, please see the Social Support team for assistance in completing your application, but be aware that the fund is not necessarily able to provide assistance in emergency situations.

The PHA Fund will consider requests based upon the following areas affecting the quality-of-life of persons living with HIV:

1. Childcare:

- Requests to cover childcare expenses will be considered
- All persons making requests for childcare may be referred to the Nine Circles Social Support Team to explore access to other existing childcare programs

2. Clothing & Household Items:

- Requests for household items will be considered if information regarding other sources of support sought is provided.
- Requests for clothing and household items are a low-priority and will be considered to a maximum of \$40

3. Hospital Support:

- Requests for access to a television and phone while in hospital will be considered for up to a maximum of 30 days
- These requests will be referred to the Nine Circles Social Support team

4. Nutrition:

- Requests for nutritional supplements and/or vitamins will be referred to the Manitoba HIV Program dietitian
- The dietitian will ensure that budgetary entitlements and other programs are being accessed

5. Prescription Drugs:

The PHA Fund cannot support ongoing costs (i.e. Pharmacare deductible monthly payments)

- Requests will be referred to the Manitoba HIV Program Pharmacist or to a Social Support staff person to ensure that budgetary entitlements and other programs are being accessed

6. Support to HIV-positive persons who are incarcerated in Provincial or Federal correctional facilities:

- Requests related to the purchase of supplies or cultural practice materials will be considered to a maximum of \$40.00

7. Funeral Expenses:

- Expenses related to the funeral of an HIV-positive person, their partner and/or family, such as the purchase of clothing and/or flowers, will be considered.
- Confirmation of funeral will be required (i.e. announcement of death, funeral home name, etc)

8. Travel:

- Bus fare to travel to see family or loved ones or to attend a funeral will be considered
- Confirmation of travel may be required

9. Gifts and Birthday Celebrations:

- Requests to allow an HIV positive person to celebrate their birthday will be considered to a maximum of \$40.
- Requests for the purchase of birthday/holiday gifts for family members and friends of an HIV positive person will be considered to a maximum of \$25.

10. Medical Fees:

- Requests for new glasses will be considered for HIV-positive persons after all other avenues of possible support for new glasses has been exhausted
- Requests for special dental needs may be referred to Nine Circles Social Support Team but will be considered after all other avenues of possible support have been exhausted.

11. Personal Care Items:

- Requests for personal care items, including: shampoo, soap, lotions and sprays, sanitary pads, etc will be considered to a maximum of \$25 if no other options are available.

12. Telephone/Cell phones

- Requests for the purchase of telephones or cell phones will be considered to a maximum of \$40. Requests for funds toward phone bills are not eligible for assistance from the fund.

12. Other Needs:

- If you have needs not listed above, please see a social support team member to discuss your need and if this can be supported by the PHA Fund.

The PHA Fund will not consider requests for any of the following:

1. Sustained financial support (i.e. rent)
2. Paying off any debt
3. Items that can be found elsewhere for free
4. Needs covered by other programs (i.e. EIA)
5. Damage deposits for rental housing
6. Other requests at the discretion of the committee