

PH/A FUND GUIDELINES

Description:

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

PH/A Fund Application Notes:

- Only HIV-positive persons can make requests to the PH/A Fund
- Requests must include: amount requested, why it is requested, and if other resources have been sought
- The PH/A 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 PH/A Fund cannot provide ongoing assistance
- As usual practice, the PH/A Fund will not provide financial assistance for bills such as those for telephone, utilities, ongoing transportation, 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)** approved 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 reception. Please indicate on your application how you would like to receive the response. Cheques picked up at reception require a signature from the applicant.
- The PH/A Fund is not an emergency resource. If your request is an emergency, please see the Social Work team for assistance with finding other resources.
- Cheques that are not picked up within 3 months will be returned to the fund.

The following are some examples of areas for which the PH/A Fund can and cannot provide support. In some cases, approval amounts have been pre-determined. Requests are not limited to these categories.

1. Clothing & Household Items:

- Requests for clothing and household items are a low-priority and will be considered to a maximum of \$40

2. 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

3. Prescription Drugs:

The PH/A 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 Worker to ensure that budgetary entitlements and other programs are being accessed

4. 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.

5. Funeral Expenses:

- Reimbursement of expenses related to the funeral of a loved one, such as the purchase of clothing and/or flowers, will be considered.
- Confirmation of funeral may be required (i.e. announcement of death, funeral home name, etc)

6. 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
- Reimbursement for travel may be considered if timeline is too short

7. 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.

8. Eyeglasses:

- Requests for new glasses will be considered for HIV-positive persons after all other avenues of possible support for new glasses has been exhausted

9. Personal Care Items:

- Requests for personal care items 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.

10. Other Needs:

- If you have needs not listed above, please see a Social Worker to discuss your need and if this can be supported by the PH/A Fund.

The PH/A Fund will not consider requests for any of the following:

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