



# Income Assistance **Allowable Expenses**

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## Personal Allowance

*Regulations 31 & Appendix A; Policy Manual 5.3.1 – 5.3.8 & 5.5.1*

Once on IA all recipients are eligible for a personal allowance.

The personal allowance amount is contained in a table at the end of the *ESIA Regulations*.

The personal allowance for adults is currently **\$255.00** per month.

While legally entitled to it, dependent children (under the age of 18) do not receive a personal allowance unless they are **not** in receipt of the child tax benefit.

## Shelter Allowance

*Regulations 31, 35(1) & Appendix A; Policy Manual 5.4.1 – 5.4.8 & 5.5.1*

Once on IA all recipients also receive a shelter allowance.

There are shelter allowance rates for those who rent or own, and shelter allowances for boarders. The policy manual sets out the criteria for when someone is considered to be a boarder versus a renter.

Both shelter allowances cover 100% of **actual** shelter costs up to a maximum based on family size. Shelter allowances are contained in a table at the end of the *ESIA Regulations*.

### What is Included

*Regulations 36 – 42; Policy Manual 5.4.6*

The shelter allowance includes 100% of the following up to the maximum allowable shelter allowance:

- i. Rent or mortgage payment;
- ii. Property taxes;
- iii. Heating costs;
- iv. Electricity costs; and
- v. Water costs.

### Amounts

*Regulation Appendix A & 35(2); Policy Manual 5.5.1 & 5.4.8*

Current monthly shelter allowances for people who rent or own are as follows:

- i. \$300 for a single person;
- ii. \$570 for a family of two; and
- iii. \$620 for a family of three or more;

Current monthly shelter allowances for boarders are as follows:

- i. \$223 for a single person;
- ii. \$242 for a family of two; and
- iii. \$282 for a family of three or more.

In roommate situations each roommate will receive 50% of their actual shelter costs based on their family size.

## **Incremental Shelter Allowance**

*Regulations 45 & 32; Policy Manual 5.4.1(a) & 5.4.2*

If certain criteria are met single IA recipients can receive an incremental shelter allowance of **\$535.00** per month. This amount is instead of, not in addition to, the regular shelter amount.

The criteria for receiving an incremental shelter allowance are:

- i. Disability;
- ii. Fleeing abuse;
- iii. 55 years of age and over; **or**
- iv. A youth (16-18).

A supervisor **may** exceed the incremental shelter allowance if a recipient requires barrier free housing.

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## Disclaimer

This document contains general legal information and not legal advice. **If you need advice about a specific legal problem then you should contact a lawyer.** If you will have difficulty affording a lawyer then you should contact [Nova Scotia Legal Aid](#) or [the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia's lawyer referral service](#).

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