



# Income Assistance Chargeable Income

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## What is Chargeable Income?

*Regulation 47; Policy Manual 5.7.1 – 5.7.2 & 5.7.9*

Chargeable income includes the income of an IA recipient, their spouse and amounts received on behalf of a dependent child.

Chargeable income falls into two categories: unearned and earned.

### Unearned Income

Unearned income includes CPP payments, child or spousal maintenance payments, workers compensation, etc...

Unearned income is charged against a recipient's budget at **100%** - in other words every dollar of unearned income received results in one dollar less of income assistance.

### Earned Income

*Regulation 48(1); Policy Manual 5.8.1 – 5.8.2*

The most common form of earned income is wages from employment. There is an 'earning incentive' applied to income from wages.

An IA recipient's first **\$150.00** of net wages is exempted from the budget deficit calculation, **and** the remaining net wages are charged at **70%** against an IA recipient's monthly entitlement.

For IA recipients engaged in supported employment the first **\$300.00** of net wages is exempt – the remainder is treated the same as recipient's not engaged in supported employment.

## Non-Chargeable Income

*Regulations 52 & 60A; Policy Manual 5.9.1 & 5.7.13*

Certain sources of income are **not** considered in the budget deficit calculation.

Common examples of non-chargeable income include:

- Income tax refunds;
- Child tax benefits;
- The Nova Scotia Poverty Reduction Credit;
- The Nova Scotia Affordable Living Tax Credit; etc...

A full list of non-chargeable income is contained in *Regulations 52 & 60A*.

## Budget Deficit Exemption

*Regulation 46; Policy Manual 5.17.2*

A casework supervisor has the ability to exempt an IA applicant or recipient from the budget deficit calculation in certain circumstances:

- i. To protect the health or safety of an applicant, recipient or their family; **or**
- ii. To preserve the dwelling of an applicant or recipient. This could mean helping someone with major repairs to their home.

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## Disclaimer

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