

Home Support Direct Funding Program

Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care

Phone: 902-424-0770

Toll-free: 1-844-277-0770

seniors@novascotia.ca



What is the Home Support Direct Funding Program?

The Home Support Direct Funding program supports eligible Nova Scotians with care needs by providing them with money to buy Home Support Services (personal care, respite, meal preparation, and light housekeeping.)

How much money am I eligible to receive?

If eligible, a care coordinator will assess your unmet care needs and you may be authorized to receive up to a maximum of \$4,242 per month for 202 hours of care depending on your assessed need.

Who is eligible for the Program?

To be eligible for direct funding, you must:

- Be a Nova Scotia resident with a valid Health Card
- Have unmet care needs that affect daily functioning.
- Require supports with Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs are things you do every day to take care of yourself and your home such as meal prep and light housekeeping) and/or reside in an area with a waitlist for home support services as determined by Nova Scotia Health Authority.
- Undergo an assessment that confirms you are eligible for the program. Assessments can be arranged by calling 1-800-225-7225.
- Be able to hire the appropriate Care Worker and manage your care needs either on your own or with the help of an appointed Care Manager. Information on how to hire and manage your own care worker can be found in the last section of this factsheet.
- Have a Substitute Decision Maker, if needed.

How to find out if you are eligible?

You can speak to someone about your needs by calling Nova Scotia Health Authority Continuing Care Intake at the toll-free number, 1-800-225-7225. A Care Coordinator will assist you and assess your eligibility for the program.

What happens after I'm approved?

You or your Substituted Decision Maker will hire your own care providers and manage your own care plan based on assessed needs. In addition, you may appoint a third party "Care Manager" to act on your behalf in carrying out these tasks. Once the agreement is signed and the service has started, the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care will deposit the approved funding into your bank account each month. If you are receiving greater than \$500/month, on a quarterly basis, you must submit all receipts for services to the Nova Scotia Health Authority or our third-party partner.

What if my health status has changed?

If your health status has changed, you must notify your Care Coordinator immediately. Your Care Coordinator will reassess your care needs. Program funding may be adjusted, paused, or stopped if your care needs change. The Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care may stop funding if you do not meet the requirements set out in your funding agreement.

What is my responsibility as an employer?

As a direct fund recipient and employer for your care provider, you must adequately fulfill all legal obligations of an employer. Some helpful resources are listed below:

Your employee must be legally entitled to work in Canada and have a valid SIN. You may find the IRCC webpage ([Click here: Hire a temporary foreign worker - Canada.ca](#)) to be an excellent tool to learn about the most up-to-date requirements for hiring foreign workers.

For taxation, payroll, and human resources related obligations, the Government of Canada's Hire and Managing Employee guide ([Click here: Hiring and managing employees - Canada.ca](#)) is a great starting point.

For provincial Workers Compensation related questions, the NSWCB has prepared the Employer Information Guide ([Click here: WCB Nova Scotia Employer Information Guide](#)) to help new employers navigating through various requirements. You can also call the worker safety hotline at 1-800-9LABOUR (1-800-952-2687) for more information.

Requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act can be found in Workplace Health And Safety Regulations ([Click here: Workplace Health and Safety Regulations - Occupational Health and Safety Act \(Nova Scotia\)](#)).

Caregivers Nova Scotia publishes [The Caregiver's Handbook](#) containing many helpful resources for planning care in your home. They also have a [resource page](#) for people receiving care in their home.