



## TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT FUND BENEFITS (TSF) POLICY

## NIPISSING FIRST NATION ONTARIO WORKS

Effective April 1, 2013, the NFN Ontario Works department will assume financial and administrative responsibility of the Transitional Support Fund (TSF) Benefit. This funding includes the transfer of savings from the former Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB), Emergency Energy Fund (EEF) for First Nations, and a portion of First Nations Ontario Works discretionary benefits expenditures.

### Who is eligible?

The TSF (Transitional Support Fund) will provide *low-income individuals and families* on-reserve assistance with housing-related supports including **social assistance recipients**, as determined by the Ontario Works Administrator. To be eligible for TSF benefits Low Income cases must meet the eligibility sections listed below. Firstly the case applying for assistance through the TSF fund will be screened for eligibility based on the income threshold chart. All sources of gross income and earnings will be included in the initial assessment.

Eligibility for TSF benefits is conditional up to the following criteria:

- Applicant had made reasonable efforts to access all other available resources;
- Applicant does not have enough income or assets to meet need;
- Applicant income of benefit unit size meets the **Low Income Threshold Chart (see appendix "A")**

Applicants can access TSF benefits once per year or every 24 months. Those who are eligible will receive TSF benefits up to the following amount. The maximum benefit and frequency they will receive is as follows:

Family Size	Maximum Benefit	Maximum Ceiling *
Single Person/Couple (no children)	\$600.00	\$1,200.00
Family with children	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00

\*Requests exceeding the established maximum ceiling will not be eligible unless the applicant had provided verification that the balance of the funding required has been secured through another source.

What services and supports that can be provided -[to assist with on-reserve housing-related issues]

- Rent deposits;
- Fuel and hydro deposits;

- Prevent the discontinuance and/or assist with the reconnection of utilities or heating in an existing residence;
- Establishing a new principal residence; **First and Last month's Rent**
- Arrears relating to shelter costs; **Rental Arrears (Max. 2 months) to avoid eviction**
- Arrears relating to utility costs; **Utility and Fuel Arrears (Max. 2 months) to avoid disconnection**
- **Fire insurance premium policy home owners and contents for renters; (deductible fees) one time benefit**
- Other services, items or costs necessary to maintain the safety or well-being of a person in the household, where such supports cannot be provided for through other means.
- **Low income requests refer to the un-expedited occurrence of expenses for example ; (hot water tank repair or replace and/or appliances.) This benefit is not to cover low income cases with utilities e.g.; Hydro disconnections / Rent arrears as this should be a regular monthly expense paid.**
- If findings of the nature to the request is that; the arrears **is not a direct result of the client's negligence**, an overpayment may be applied to the benefit unit up to the full amount of the issued benefit.
- **Requests must be within 30 days of intake**

Funding is not to be used to build new structures or conduct major renovations on existing structures.

## ASSETS

The availability of assets must also be considered when determining eligibility for TSF benefits in accordance to the following table:

Exempt Assets	Non-Exempt Assets
Business Assets – Tools of the Trade	Cash
Motor Vehicle – Primary Vehicle	Motor Vehicle – Secondary Vehicle
RESP	Bank Account
RRSP – locked in	RRSP – accessible
Life Insurance	Real Property – Second Properties
Pre-Paid Funerals	
Real Property – Principal Residence	

Maximum Liquid Asset Limits for bank Accounts and Cash	
Family Size	Maximum
Single Person	\$600.00
Couples	\$800.00
Family with dependents	\$1,200.00

Applicants must be experiencing one or more of the following circumstances to be eligible for TSF benefits:



- Eviction due to uninhabitable premises (verification provided from Building Inspector/Health Unit);
- Families needing to obtain alternate housing when ordered through CAS; **(verification needed)**
- Fleeing family violence; **(verification needed)**
- Discharge from an institution; **(minimum 6 months stay- assist with establishing residence)**
- Relocation due to Employment; **(verification needed)**
- Failure to provide assistance will result in a danger to the physical health of the applicant and their dependents; or;
- Under exceptional circumstances where the list does not provide guidance, issuance will be at the discretion of the Ontario Works Administrator
- Verification of circumstances to be requested when possible.

#### **How do individuals access supports under the TSF**

Contact the NFN Ontario Works office at Phone: 705-753-2058; Fax: 705-753-5841

- Ontario Works Administrator
- Ontario Works Intake Worker
- Ontario Employment Counsellor

Ontario Works recipients should speak to their caseworker, while Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients should be referred to the Ontario Works delivery agent in the First Nation where they reside.

#### **Application that are required to be completed by the NFN Ontario Works Office**

Application for Assistance Ontario Works – Emergency access form  
 Consent to Disclose and Verify Information  
 NFN Ontario Works Transitional Support Fund form  
 Pay direct form – third party  
 Intent to rent form  
 Banking information  
 Income verification – pay stubs and/or income taxes (low income cases)  
**Copies of I.D. and proper documents of requests needed**

### **Decision Review**

Requests for a review of a decision made under this Policy are to be received in writing no later than 30 days from the date the decision was made. Reviews will be completed by the Ontario Works Administrator with a final decision in writing to be forwarded to the applicant within 10 working days.

*Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2014.*

*Appendix "A"*

Low Income Threshold	
1 persons	\$16,124
2 persons	\$19,625
3 persons	\$24,437
4 persons	\$30,487
5 persons	\$34,717
6 persons	\$38,502
7 or more persons	\$42,286