



Proposed changes to regulations

Income Assistance and Income Assistance for Seniors and People with Disabilities

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is proposing changes to the Income Assistance Regulations and Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Regulations.

Proposed changes to Income Assistance Regulations:

- Clarifying what situations qualify as an emergency for Emergency Assistance.
- Creating a bridge benefit for applicants with children aged 18 to cover the period after the Canada Child Benefit ends and before the children is considered a mature dependent or applies on their own.
- Clarifying that Fuel and Utilities Allowances are for Standard Residential Structures.
- Excluding Canada Disability Benefit payments from the calculation of Income Assistance benefits.
- Creating a new benefit for applicants who are outside the territory receiving medical care or treatment for over a month. This benefit would replace the basic benefit during that time.
- Excluding payments from Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative from the calculation of Income Assistance benefits, except when they directly duplicate benefits.

Proposed changes to Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Regulations:

- Clarifying what situations qualify as an emergency for Emergency Assistance.
- Creating a bridge benefit for applicants with children aged 18 to cover the period after the Canada Child Benefit ends and before the children is considered a mature dependent or applies on their own.
- Clarifying that Fuel and Utilities Allowances are for Standard Residential Structures.
- Excluding Canada Disability Benefit payments from the calculation of Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities benefits.
- Removing income reassessments. Recipients will receive fixed benefits for the year based on income reported on their Notice of Assessment.

To view the drafted amendments on Income Assistance Regulations, [click here](#).

To view the drafted amendments on Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Regulations, [click here](#).

Provide your feedback by October 12, 2026, by emailing IARegulations@gov.nt.ca.

To learn more about the public engagement process, [click here](#).
