



PWD ANNUAL EARNING EXEMPTION



Annual Earnings Exemption for Person with Disability (PWD)

Recipients of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) have an Annual Earnings Exemption (AEE) which was created with the understanding that PWD recipient’s earnings may fluctuate throughout the year due to their disabilities. The AEE limit is based on family size, composition, and number of qualifying months in the year and only applied to qualifying income. The AEE runs from January 1 to December 31 and resets each year (i.e. any remaining exemption from previous years do not carry over). The PWD cheque issued at the end of February for March benefits will be the first cheque to reflect this.

Qualifying income is money or value received for:

- Exchange of work or the provision of a service
- Pension plan contributions that are refunded because of insufficient contributions
- Providing room and board at a person’s place of residence
- Renting rooms that are common to and part of a person’s place of residence
- Compensation paid under section 29 or 30 of the Workers Compensation Act (WCB temporary wage loss replacement benefits)

First time disability assistance recipients are required to serve a one month waiting period before being eligible for the exemption unless they received income assistance in the previous month. Family units who were in receipt of either income assistance or disability assistance for the previous month or returning PWD designated clients who have previously received disability assistance, have no wait period.

AEE Limits

The AEE is calculated by multiplying the base amount for the family by the number of qualifying months remaining in the year. When you are at approximately 75% of your AEE you should receive a letter from the Ministry letting you know that you are almost at your maximum AEE. Once a family’s AEE limit is reached, any additional earnings received will be deducted dollar for dollar from their cheque.

Disability Assistance	
Eligible Clients	Annual Earnings Exemption (per year)
Single: with PWD	\$12,000
Couple: One with PWD	\$14,400
Couple: Both with PWD	\$24,000

Source: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/eligibility/income-treatment-and-exemptions>

Couples

When you are classified as a family unit, the AEE applies between the entire family unit. For example if you have PWD status and your partner does not, between the two of you the exemption is \$14,400/year, this can either mean one person solely providing for the family, or split between the two of you however you chose to do so.

For more information visit our website at www.AskAnAdvocate.ca