



DRAFT POLICY

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS

Policy Type:	Municipal Services	Effective Date:	2008-10-01
Department:	Community Services	Approval Level:	Council
Division:	Social Services	Policy #:	0008
Section/Facility:	Social Assistance / Ontario Works	Revision #:	N/A

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This policy is made pursuant to Section 59 of Regulation 134/98 of the Ontario Works Act, 1997, which enables the City of Peterborough, as an Ontario Works delivery agent, to provide a program of discretionary benefits to eligible recipients. The purpose of this policy is to ensure fairness, consistency, and accountability in the provision of discretionary benefits to eligible recipients.

2.0 APPLICATION

- 2.1 This policy is limited to persons in receipt of assistance under the Ontario Works Act, 1997 or the Ontario Disability Support Plan Act, 1997, unless stated otherwise under a particular discretionary benefit.

3.0 DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS (As Required)

Discretionary Benefits - Payments that Ontario Works Administrators have the discretion to approve on a case-by-case basis to recipients who meet the eligibility criteria for the particular benefit. Discretionary benefits may be health related benefits, non-health related benefits, or other special services, items or payments.

Health Related Benefits - One of the categories of discretionary benefits provided for under the Ontario Works Act, 1997. Examples include: dental care for adults, vision care for adults, prosthetic appliances, and funerals and burials.



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3.0 DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS (As Required)

Non-Health Related Benefits - One of the categories of discretionary benefits provided for under the Ontario Works Act, 1997. Examples include: vocational training and retraining, travel and transportation that is not for health related purposes, and moving expenses.

ODSP - Ontario Disability Support Plan.

OW - Ontario Works.

OW Administrator - The position within the OW Delivery Agent's organization designated to meet the requirement of the legislation, usually the Social Services Division Head for the City of Peterborough.

OW Delivery Agent - An organization designated by the Minister to administer the Ontario Works Act and provide assistance in that geographic area.

4.0 POLICY STATEMENT(S)

- 4.1** Within the authority of the OW Administrator, discretionary benefits shall be provided to eligible recipients to support them in times of crisis or with costs that cannot be accommodated within regular financial assistance, subject to available funding and as outlined in Schedule A of the Discretionary Benefits Procedure under Section 5.0.



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5.0 APPENDIX, RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES & LINKS

5.1 Pertinent Resources

Ontario Works Act, 1997

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_97o25a_e.htm

Ontario Works Regulation 134/98

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_980134_e.htm

Ontario Works Directives 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5, and 7.7

http://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/mcscs/english/pillars/social/directives/ow_policy_directives.htm

Ontario Disability Support Plan Act, 1997

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_97o25b_e.htm

Committee of the Whole Report C55S08-008 Ontario Works Discretionary Benefits Review

[http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/Reports+to+Council/Committee+of+the+Whole+Reports/2008/2008-06-30+-+June+30\\$!2c+2008/C55S08-008+Ontario+Works+Discretionary+Benefits+Review.pdf](http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/Reports+to+Council/Committee+of+the+Whole+Reports/2008/2008-06-30+-+June+30$!2c+2008/C55S08-008+Ontario+Works+Discretionary+Benefits+Review.pdf)

City Council Minutes of the City Council Meeting of July 7, 2008

http://www.peterborough.ca/City_Hall/City_Council/2008-07-07_City_Council.htm?ViewMode=View&DateTime=633510522000000000&PageMode=View#Minutes

5.2 Related Policies

N/A

5.3 Related Procedures

Discretionary Benefits Procedure

<http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/Documents/Corporate+Policy/Community+Services/Social+Services/Discretionary+Benefits+Overview+Procedure.pdf>

5.4 Related Forms

N/A

5.5 Miscellaneous

N/A

6.0 AMENDMENTS/ REVIEWS

Next Review Date

2009-07-01

Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	Section(s) Amended	Comments
2008-06-30	N/A	<p>Committee of the Whole endorsed Report C55S08-008 Ontario Works Discretionary Benefits Review recommending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the original discretionary benefit policy, as set out in report SS00-03 and approved by City Council on October 23, 2000 and all subsequent revisions be rescinded - that Discretionary Benefits Policy and the Schedule of Discretionary Benefits attached to Report C55S08-08 be endorsed.
2008-07-07	N/A	Policy approved by Council.