



The Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) Benefit

This Help Sheet is funded by the Health Sciences Association of British Columbia and the Law Foundation of BC.

Disability Alliance BC has prepared this Help Sheet to help you understand what the Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) benefit is and how to apply for it. The PPMB benefit is for people who are unable to work because they have severe and multiple barriers to employment. This means that your medical condition must be severe enough that it prevents you from seeking, accepting or continuing employment now or in the foreseeable future.

What you will get with PPMB

- You will receive up to \$983 a month if you are a single person without dependants
- You will not be expected to look for work
- You will be able to keep up to \$900 a month in earned income
- You will be eligible for certain health supplements.

To qualify for PPMB

Who can fill out the Health Assessment on your form?

Only the following registered/licensed Health Professionals can fill out your PPMB application form:

- Medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, registered psychiatric nurse, chiropractor, occupational therapist, registered social worker, physical therapist, registered psychologist, school psychologist, registered clinical counsellor.



Your health professional must provide details about how your medical condition (a medical condition can include an addiction) seriously prevents you from seeking, accepting or continuing employment *that would allow you to get off welfare*.

Your health professional must indicate that:

- You have a medical condition that has lasted for one year and is likely to continue for at least 2 more years, **or**;
- You have a health condition that has occurred frequently in the past year and is likely to continue for at least 2 or more years.

Examples of work activities that could be affected by various health conditions include but are not limited to:

- Concentration, memory, ability to plan, organize and complete tasks and make quick calculations and judgements, ability to communicate and interact with others effectively, ability to stand and/or walk for long periods of time, to lift and carry, manual dexterity that can be limited by painful hands or fingers, etc.

Your health professional can enclose copies of any documentation that confirms or verifies the nature and severity of the restrictions on your ability to function at work. Such documentation can include but is not limited to:

- Laboratory or diagnostic reports and psychological reports, including WorkBC contractor psychological vocational reports.

You must identify at least one barrier to employment on your form

- Homelessness currently or in the past 12 months
- Family violence currently or in the past 6 months
- In need of English language training
- Not having basic skills for employment
- Less than grade 12 education
- Criminal record
- Have accessed emergency health, mental health or addiction service multiple times in the past 12 months
- Recent convention refugee
- Former child in care of the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development or similar Canadian jurisdiction
- Other severe barriers to employment.

You are also advised to provide information or documentation to support the barrier or barriers you have identified.



How to apply for PPMB

Call or go to your Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) office. Tell them you want to apply for PPMB.

How long PPMB lasts

PPMB is not a permanent category and the Ministry has authority to review a person's eligibility for PPMB. The Ministry is not currently performing regular reviews except under special circumstances such as discovery of inaccurate or insufficient information.

If you are denied PPMB

If you are denied PPMB benefits you can appeal the decision. The first stage of the appeal is called the Reconsideration.

As soon as you find out you have been denied, contact your local MSDPR office and ask for a Request for Reconsideration form and the case file information. You must return this to the Ministry within 20 business days from the date you receive your denial letter.

Disability Alliance BC has prepared materials on how to appeal. Please visit our website at <http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org> or call our office at 604-872-1278 for information.

It is sometimes quicker and easier to re-apply for PPMB than to appeal. If you want to do a new application, contact MSDPR and speak to a worker. Also, you may be eligible and want to apply for the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit, which provides a higher rate of support than the PPMB benefit. For more information, please see **Help Sheet 2: The Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Application**.



Letter to health professionals:

In order for your patient to qualify for the Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) benefit, their health professional must complete the Part C - Health Assessment section of the application. The PPMB benefit provides approximately \$50 a month more than basic income assistance. PPMB recipients are also eligible for certain health supplements, and may earn up to \$900 a month without it decreasing their benefits. So, there are real advantages for your patient if they can qualify for PPMB.

We respectfully ask that you complete the Part C – Health Assessment. To assist you and your patient, we have written a brief guide to some questions in the Assessment that we believe require particular attention.

1. Health Condition

Please list all medical conditions (including addiction). A medical condition must have lasted for at least one year for the applicant to qualify for PPMB.

2. Duration

The duration requirement for PPMB is that a medical condition must be expected to continue for “more than two years.”

3. Restrictions

It is important that you provide details about how your patient’s medical conditions restrict them from an employment perspective. It is helpful if you state that you patient is unable to do any kind of work as a direct result of these health restrictions. Please evaluate the applicant’s ability to work from a “real world” perspective. A 60 year old man, for example, who has a limited education and is no longer able to work as a labourer is extremely unlikely to be able to pursue a job as an office worker.

4. Enclosures

Please include any reports or consultations that shed light on the severity of your patient’s impairment.

Thank you for taking time to complete this Health Assessment.

Sincerely





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