

Ministry of Community and
Social Services

Ministère des Services
Sociaux et Communautaires

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February 5, 2010

Memorandum To: Ontario Works Administrators
- Municipalities and DSSABs

Regional Directors

From: Erin Hannah
Director, Ontario Works Branch

Re: Ontario Works CSM/DSSAB Incentive Funding

I am pleased to announce a change in regards to Ontario Works incentive funding. Effective January 1, 2010, the incentive funding budget (\$18.14M) will become part of regular base administration funding and distributed among municipal delivery agents based on most recent caseload information. This change aligns with the feedback we have received from our delivery partners about the need to simplify and streamline the administration budget.

As you are aware, the Ministry has provided incentive funding for the purpose of enhancing case management, which was funded 100% by the province. These incentive funds included:

- Eligibility Review Officer (ERO), which provided funding to investigate eligibility complaints (e.g., fraud allegations);
- Consolidated Verification Process (CVP), which encouraged more than the minimum number of financial eligibility reviews; and
- Enhanced Family Support Initiative (EFSI), which provided funding to support increases in the number and value of child/spousal support arrangements in place.

Recognizing that delivery agents may require time to plan for this change, 2010 will be a transitional year where the province will fund the \$18.14M at 100%. During this year, the funding will be provided as time-limited Cost of Administration (CoA). This funding is expenditure-based and must be used towards eligible administration expenditures. This funding will be subject to year-end reconciliation and any surpluses will be directly recovered at the end of the calendar year. Starting January 2011, this funding will be subject to 50/50 cost-sharing.

Note from CAO:

Provincial Downloading Effective January 2011.

This will have a minimum impact of \$33,300 with the possibility of a far greater impact if a cost per case is implemented. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

2009 Allocation \$58,300 100% Provincial

2010 Allocation \$33,300 100% Provincial

Municipal Impact \$25,000 in 2010

2011 Allocation \$33,300 50% Provincial

Municipal Impact \$33,300 in 2011

With incentive funding becoming part of regular base administration, delivery agents will no longer be required to meet performance targets to receive their allocation. However, delivery agents continue to be required to: investigate eligibility complaints; conduct regular financial eligibility reviews on all cases; and ensure that recipients are making reasonable efforts to pursue child or spousal support as a condition of eligibility for assistance.

Detailed funding allocations will be provided to Regional Offices in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Jeff Bowen at 416-325-6272 or by e-mail at jeffrey.bowen@ontario.ca.

Original signed by

Erin Hannah

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