

Independence allowance

Under Section 67 of [The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013](#) (the Act), if your work injury causes a permanent functional impairment, you may get an independence allowance. This allowance is to help you with the costs of keeping a reasonable degree of independence.

What is a permanent functional impairment?

An example of a permanent functional impairment would be the loss of use of a body part or function. The amount of impairment is a percentage estimate of a worker's loss of activity or normal function.

Who may get independence allowance?

If you have a permanent functional impairment rating of 10 per cent or more, you will be considered for independence allowance. The allowance is based on your permanent functional impairment rating and physical need.

Workers with a permanent functional impairment solely for hearing loss are not eligible for the independence allowance.

Workers living in nursing homes, extended care facilities or special-care facilities do not get the allowance, unless their dependent spouse or children continue to care for the family home. In these cases, the allowance may be paid to the dependent spouse or children.

Your income, including other payments from the WCB, does not affect independence allowance.

What does independence allowance help cover?

The independence allowance may help cover:

- Your routine home maintenance (for example, hiring someone to cut grass, remove snow, house cleaning).
- Fees your landlord charges you for property maintenance.
- Taxis or other transportation services (for example, paratransit).

How is the allowance calculated?

If eligible, your independence allowance payment will be based on:

- Your permanent functional impairment rating percentage.
- When your permanent functional impairment was first determined.
- The independence allowance amounts set through the Act.

Independence allowance is paid once each year and continues throughout your lifetime for as long as you qualify, regardless of age.

In cases of discrepancies, the Act and WCB policy are default.

For more information, view this policy on our website wcbask.com or:

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