

Chapter 6: Shelter Benefits

(III) Utilities

(b) Heat and Electricity Included

Intent:	To identify how the payment of utilities is included in Income Support benefits.
Act: (if applicable)	N/A
Regulations:	<p>13 (2) The amounts under this section are reduced by the following amounts</p> <p>(a) where the applicant or recipient resides in an apartment or a house</p> <p>(i) where heat and electricity are included, \$76 a month,</p> <p>(ii) where heat only is included, \$49 a month, or</p> <p>(iii) where electricity only is included, \$27 a month; or</p> <p>(b) where the applicant or recipient resides in a bed sitting room</p> <p>(i) where heat and electricity are included, \$61 a month,</p> <p>(ii) where heat only is included, \$49 a month, or</p> <p>(iii) where electricity only is included, \$12 a month.</p>
Overview: (if applicable)	N/A

Policy and Procedure Manual

Policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family and individual benefits provided to clients who are maintaining a home include provision for food, clothing, and maintenance of the home as well as utilities. Where one or all utilities are included in the rental payment or subsidized mortgage, the family/individual benefits are reduced by the amounts identified in Regulation 13 (2). The rates vary based on whether the accommodation is an apartment unit or a bedsitter, and which utilities are included. NLHC rental units and co-op housing units which include a heat subsidy are considered to have the applicable utilities included year round, and the appropriate deductions are made from family/individual benefits. No adjustment is made to family/individual benefits in the case where a tenant has exhausted their heat subsidy before the end of the year. Given that the cost of accommodations with utilities included is often more expensive than arrangements where utilities are paid by the tenant, there is provision to include a 'utilities' requirement to offset the higher cost, where required. The amount of utilities requirement which is approved (same rates as found in Regulation 13 (2)), plus the cost of the appropriate rental requirements listed in Regulation 16 cannot exceed the amount of rent charged to the client. In the case of Income Support clients who are also receiving home support services from a Regional Health Authority (RHA), and where these clients have utilities included in their rent/mortgage, the 'utilities' requirement deducted from the family/individual benefit can be added back to the allowance. 				
Procedure:	Accommodation Type	Heat Included	Heat and Light Included	Electricity Only Included	
	Rent	\$49	\$76	\$27	
	Bedsitter	\$49	\$61	\$12	

- Where utilities are included in a rental or mortgage arrangement, the appropriate deductions must be made from the family/individual benefits requirement.
- A 'utilities' requirement can be added to the Income Support allowance where the rental amount being charged is higher than the basic rental rate. This requirement is an "up to" rate so the maximum may not be required.
- Where heat is included in the rent/mortgage, there is no eligibility for the fuel supplement.

Authority Level:	Client Services Officer
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