

Supports for Albertans fleeing abuse

Albertans in abusive situations can get help 24 hours a day, seven days a week through Alberta Works. All they need to do is call 1-866-644-5135 toll-free in Alberta or 644-5135 in Edmonton to find out what is available. These financial supports are available through Alberta Works, providing the program's eligibility criteria are met.

Getting to safety

- Emergency transportation to a safe place is provided (such as a women's shelter).
- If shelters are full or not available, emergency accommodation is arranged in hotel or motel.
- A \$56 allowance to cover incidental expenses not covered by the shelter.
- Emergency items not available through shelters are covered, such as prescription drugs, dental or optical services and child care.
- Relocation costs within Alberta or Canada are covered if a person must move out of their community to escape the threat of violence.

Setting up a new household

- A \$1,000 allowance is issued to help set up a new home.
- Damage deposit to secure a residence is covered.
- Financial help provides for needs such as food, clothing, shelter and other basic needs, free from the expectation to seek employment, so personal or family matters can be dealt with.
- A \$50 monthly benefit is provided with the recognition that Albertans fleeing abuse are not ready to go to work.

Starting a new life

- \$30 per month for telephone costs and \$60 per month for transportation costs are provided to ensure access to additional supports, such as being able to call for help and travel to get counselling or legal advice.
- Employment and training services are available to help find jobs.
- Child support from the other parent(s) is arranged, if it does not endanger the family's safety.
- To help people increase their income through working, earnings exemptions take only a portion of their wages into account when their monthly financial support is calculated.
 - Single parents get the first \$230 in monthly earnings (plus 25 per cent of any amount over \$230) without any deductions from their financial benefits.
 - Single people or couples without children get the first \$115 in monthly earnings (plus 25 percent of any amount over \$115) without any deductions from their financial benefits.
- Supplementary health coverage continues for the whole family after they stop receiving financial support, to make the transition into working easier.
- Extended health coverage for children – through the Alberta Child Health Benefit – is available to all families with limited incomes.

