

Support

Without the

**SENIOR
DISCOUNT**

Government Resources for Albertans Under 65

Written By: Michaela Lay



When talking about supports for those living with Parkinson disease, we often hear about Senior's benefits and government support for those over 65. And this is great, especially since 80% of people diagnosed with Parkinson's are over the age of 65; but what about the other 20%? Those diagnosed at age 60? In their 50s? Or even their 30s or 40s? Knowing this may leave you wondering what government resources are available to Albertans living with Parkinson's (and their loved ones) who have yet to reach their "golden years." The good news is there are options; let's delve into some of them.

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

I recently had a conversation with a client who had reached out because he was struggling to maintain employment due to worsening tremors and stiffness, making it difficult to perform his job as a mechanic. He worried about how he would continue supporting his family. After discussing his situation, together we explored Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) as a possibility to assist him. While admittedly the name of the program isn't great, AISH provides financial and health benefits to eligible Albertans with a permanent medical condition that prevents them from earning a sustainable income.

This program includes a living allowance, child

benefits, health benefits (including prescription medication coverage), and personal benefits for specific needs. To apply, individuals must provide medical documentation confirming the severity and permanency of their disability.

Income Support/Alberta Supports

For those who may not qualify for AISH but still need financial assistance, Alberta Supports provides income support to individuals facing temporary or ongoing financial challenges. This program helps cover basic living expenses such as food, shelter, and clothing. Additionally, Alberta Supports assists individuals in navigating other available resources, including employment and health-related services.

Disability-Related Employment Supports

Remaining in the workforce with Parkinson's can be challenging, but Disability-Related Employment Supports help individuals with disabilities continue working by providing funding for job accommodations, assistive technology, specialized training, and mobility aids. This program is particularly beneficial for those who need adaptive tools to maintain their employment and financial independence.

Alberta Adult Health Benefit

Sometimes you're still able to work or are doing okay in other areas of your life but the financial burden of covering all your medications is becoming daunting. For those struggling with high prescription costs, the Alberta Adult Health Benefit can be a crucial resource. This program covers essential medical services, including prescription drugs, dental and optical care, emergency ambulance services, and diabetic supplies.

It is available to individuals with low incomes who do not qualify for AISH but still require financial assistance with medical expenses.

Navigating these programs can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to do it alone. If you have questions about where to start, including eligibility, application processes, or other support options, reach out to the Client Services Team at Parkinson Association of Alberta. We are here to help you access the resources you need to live well with Parkinson's.



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Suzanne Bacchus
☎ 780-453-6948

Michael Hys-Moore
☎ 780-453-7082

Adrian Bak
☎ 780-453-7082

