

Poverty Reduction Strategy Initiatives (Budget 2016/17)

(Note: New or increased initiatives highlighted in green. A list of acronyms is provided at the end of the document.)

Program/Initiative	Department	Approved Budget 2016/17
Goal 1: Improved access to and coordination of services for people with low income		
Expand eligibility for the Cost of Living Allowance to all Income Support clients who maintain a residence in coastal Labrador	AES	\$200,000
Develop a better integrated service by government to meet the needs of individuals and groups who require social housing and supportive services	AES	\$85,000
Six new front line positions in Labrador will enhance the child protection model for the Labrador region	CYFS	\$585,400
Provincial system navigator position to assist patients and families access mental health and addictions treatment	HCS	\$88,600
Three youth outreach workers in the Labrador communities of Nain, Hopedale and Sheshatshiu to provide youth outreach programs and services to vulnerable and high-risk youth	HCS	\$202,000
Funding for NLHC Neighbourhood Centres that are tailored to the needs of smaller neighbourhoods	NLHC	\$100,000
Funding for the Supportive Living Program to support community-based initiatives that enable individuals with complex needs to overcome homelessness	NLHC	\$7,800,000
Provincial Homelessness Fund	NLHC	\$1,000,000
Support community-based groups that provide support to clients with complex needs	NLHC	\$250,000
Increase funding for the eight existing Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation Community Centres	NLHC	\$792,000
Community Healthy Living Fund is for initiatives, programs and projects focused on healthy living, recreation and wellness at the community level	SWSD	\$1,840,000
Increased funding for the Kidsport initiative which allows youth in families with low incomes to participate in sports	SWSD	\$35,000
Fund salaries and operations to lead the Poverty Reduction Strategy and support the Newfoundland and Labrador Market Basket Measure	SWSD	\$395,400
Funding for the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network to address issues in their communities such as poverty and violence, in ways that are culturally-sensitive	WPO	\$100,000
Increased funding for the province's eight Women's Centres	WPO	\$552,000
Goal 2: A stronger social safety net		
Increase the monthly fuel allowance for eligible Income Support clients	AES	\$3,000,000
Increase basic individual and family Income Support benefit rates by an additional five per cent	AES	\$4,847,300

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Elimination of the requirement for Income Support clients to apply for Canada Pension Plan benefits at age 60	AES	\$500,000
Further increase to the Income Support additional assistance for shelter rate	AES	\$4,000,000
Increase the liquid asset level for Income Support clients	AES	\$50,000
Enhance health benefits for Income Support clients	AES	\$1,169,000
Remove an inequity in the Income Support program that provided lower rental rates to persons renting from relatives when compared to those who rent from non-relatives	AES	\$444,000
Index Income Support rates for a six year period	AES	\$18,430,000
Increase basic individual and family Income Support benefit rates by five per cent	AES	\$7,312,000
Increase the additional assistance for shelter rate from \$61 to \$100	AES	\$2,741,000
Enhance enforcement and compliance of court order supports	AES	policy change
Fund the Supporting Youth with Transitions program that provides youth with hands-on interventions and supports to build necessary life skills in a variety of areas, including relationships and communication, housing and financial management, career and education planning	CYFS	\$401,600
Implement Newfoundland and Labrador Income Supplement	Finance	\$42,600,000
Implement disability component of NL Income Supplement	Finance	\$1,700,000
Increases to the Low Income Seniors' Benefit (2016/17 increase of \$9,500,000)	Finance	\$13,100,000
Agreement with Health Canada to fund a Provincial Methadone Treatment Policy and increase access to substance-abuse services	HCS	\$414,200
Funding for Choices for Youth to provide Youth Outreach services	HCS	\$220,000
Funding for the Provincial Smoking Cessation program for people with low income (2016/17 increase of \$324,000)	HCS	\$1,036,000
Enhance the Medical Transportation Assistance Program to further benefit people with low income	HCS	\$430,000
Develop an Adult Dental Health Care Program that increases access to dental services for people who are vulnerable to poverty	HCS	\$2,200,000
Further improvements to the Access Prescription Plan (low-income prescription drug program)	HCS	\$3,642,900
Implement a new financial assessment process for home support	HCS	\$14,400,000
Funding for O'Shaughnessy House in Carbonear which not only provides safe and secure shelter for those leaving abusive environments, but also offers individual support and encouragement for women and their children	HCS	\$816,200
Establish a youth addiction, prevention and early intervention program	HCS	\$1,270,000

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Increase the board and lodging supplement for adults with disabilities who reside with family members	HCS	\$6,500,000
Expand the NL Dental Plan to include dental services for youth between the ages of 13 and 17 in low-income families and provide dental sealants for children	HCS	\$100,000
Expand eligibility for Newfoundland & Labrador Prescription Drug Program to include low-income families and individuals	HCS	\$22,270,100
Increase access to the Special Child Welfare Allowance Program	HCS	\$100,000
Funding for a specialized Family Violence Intervention Court	JPS	\$1,560,000
Establish a Child, Youth and Family Services team in Corner Brook to improve the quality and effectiveness of Legal Aid services for children and parents in child protection cases	JPS	\$240,000
Expand the coverage of the Mental Health Office to include Civil Legal Aid services to individuals with complex mental health issues	JPS	\$125,000
Expand Family Justice Services to provide more family law resources throughout the province	JPS	\$921,400
Funding for low-income earners to access family and Civil Legal Aid services	JPS	\$500,000
Amend the Human Rights Code to provide protection against discrimination based on source of income	JPS	legislative/ regulation change
Funding for a three year extension to the Residential Energy Efficiency Program	NLHC	\$1,700,000
Funding for a three year extension to the Home Modification Program	NLHC	\$2,000,000
Lower the rental rate for Community Based Housing by adjusting the rent-geared-to-income scale from a sliding scale to a flat 25 per cent of household income and expand the Educational Incentive Allowance	NLHC	\$110,000
Lower the rental rate for all Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation tenants by adjusting the rent-geared-to-income scale from a sliding scale to a flat 25 per cent of household income	NLHC	\$350,000
Expand Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation's Rent Supplement Program to subsidize additional units for eligible low-income households	NLHC	\$5,000,000
Lower the rental rate for all social housing tenants that are seniors aged 55 and older by adjusting the rent-geared-to-income scale from a sliding scale to a flat 25 per cent of income and for all social housing tenants with employment earnings by adjusting the scale to use net income instead of gross	NLHC	\$350,000
Lower the rental rate for seniors living in Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation units aged 55 and older by adjusting the rent-geared-to-income scale from a sliding scale to a flat 25 per cent of income	NLHC	\$350,000
Lower the rental rate for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation tenants with employment earnings by adjusting the rent-geared-to-income scale to use net income instead of gross	NLHC	\$750,000
Funding for the Kids Eat Smart Foundation and expand the initiative to include more schools	SWSD	\$1,093,700

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Goal 3: Improved earned incomes		
Expand the Earned Income Supplement project for working single parents receiving Income Support	AES	\$260,000
Change the classification of income tax refunds from "partially exempt" to "exempt" for Income Support clients	AES	\$350,000
Expand workplace incentives and open up opportunities for Income Support clients to go to work by building on program initiatives (increasing earnings exemptions and overlapping Income Support benefits)	AES	\$1,630,000
Expand the Employment Transitions program for single parents	AES	\$525,500
Improve the earnings exemption program for Income Support clients with disabilities	AES	\$200,000
Fund a Community Collaboration facilitator to increase access to career, employment and related services for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation clients	AES	\$100,000
Increase the labour market participation and reduce barriers to employment for persons with disabilities, including: a wage subsidy program, employment-related disability supports, internships to promote technology and school-to-work transition supports	AES	\$1,035,000
Increase the private child care allowance by \$75 per month for working Income Support clients	AES	\$300,000
Offer women who are victims of family violence enhanced employment readiness services	AES	\$294,000
Provide a Job Start Benefit to support clients who leave Income Support for work	AES	\$570,000
Simplify the process for Income Support clients to report employment earnings	AES	policy change
Provide funding for the high school Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology Program	EECD	\$255,300
Increase Low Income Tax Reduction thresholds to reduce or eliminate the payment of provincial income tax for individuals and families with low income	Finance	\$11,800,000
Increase the extended drug card from 6 months to 1 year for people leaving Income Support	HCS	\$700,000
Expand the Provincial Government's Opening Doors program to crown corporations	HRS	\$100,000
Funding for offender employment skills training at correctional facilities across the province	JPS	\$47,000
Goal 4: Increased emphasis on early childhood development		
Increase the Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement rate by \$15 per month to help with the cost of nutritious food during and after pregnancy	AES/Finance	\$165,000
Funding for the Operating Grant Program - Family and Child Care Centres to reduce or eliminate surcharges to parents	EECD	\$10,581,600

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Provide funding for Early Childhood Learning initiatives under Learning from the Start for children birth to age three years and their families	EECD	\$1,126,000
Funding for the Early Learning Child Care Supplement paid directly to qualified Early Childhood Educators	EECD	\$3,443,900
Provide funding for the Child Care Services Subsidy to help families with low incomes with the costs of regulated child care	EECD	\$4,334,600
Funding for the Inclusion Program which provides support to assist in the accommodation of all children in regulated child care	EECD	\$672,100
Funding for the Family Child Care Initiative which includes grants paid to qualified family child care providers to increase regulated spaces	EECD	\$305,100
Funding to strengthen existing Family Resource Centres throughout the province	EECD	\$2,496,000
Funding to Healthy Baby Clubs to address wait lists and further supplement the provision of healthy and fresh foods	EECD/HCS	\$400,000
Implement child amount component of NL Income Supplement	Finance	\$3,500,000
Increase the NL Child Benefit by \$5 per month	Finance	\$745,000
Funding for early intervention services for pre-school children at risk of, or who have, a developmental disability	HCS	\$1,514,000
Develop an enhanced home visiting model for vulnerable children, youth and families to support parenting in the Protective Intervention Program	HCS/CYFS	\$1,656,000
Goal 5: A better educated population		
Increase the high school incentive allowance for families receiving Income Support whose child turns 18 while attending high school	AES	\$60,000
Funding for Adult Basic Education Level I	AES	\$1,200,000
Provide funding for the Comprehensive Arts & Science Transition Program at College of the North Atlantic	AES	\$650,000
Implementation of Full Day Kindergarten	EECD	\$9,261,600
Increased funding for the Murphy Centre to enable 25 more individuals to access its academic programs	EECD	\$115,400
Extend the provision of free textbooks in core courses for students in the K - 12 public system	EECD	\$1,200,000
Increase the instructional grant to school boards and cover prescribed workbooks and other consumable materials that were charged to parents	EECD	\$6,300,000

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Education Incentive Allowance for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation tenants to remain in school	NLHC	\$625,000
Maintain funding of the Community Youth Networks	OPE	\$1,560,000
Leverage additional funding from the private sector and the federal government to develop and implement a physical activity program for school-aged children	SWSD	\$500,000
		Total: \$253,347,900

Acronyms:

The following acronyms are used in this document to represent Provincial Government departments and agencies:

- AES – Advanced Education and Skills
- CYFS – Child, Youth and Family Services
- EECD – Education and Early Childhood Development
- HCS – Health and Community Services
- HRS – Human Resources Secretariat
- JPS – Justice and Public Safety
- NLHC – Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation
- OPE – Office of Public Engagement
- SWSD – Seniors, Wellness and Social Development