

## FAMILY SERVICES AND HOUSING CIRCULAR

**Date:** December 2, 2009

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** EIA #2009-42

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**To:** Community Social Service Supervisors/Program Managers

**Subject:** Referral process for the Portable Housing Benefit (WINNIPEG ONLY)

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**Type:** Policy Updates # 2008-40  
 Procedure  
Rate  
Information Only

**Effective Date** November 2009

The Portable Housing Benefit (PHB) is a rent supplement, accompanied by support services, for low-income persons with mental health issues who are living in an unstable housing situation that is interfering with their progress in treatment and positive participation in community life. The initial implementation of the PHB was targeted to EIA participants enrolled on the basis of a mental health disability and living in Winnipeg, Brandon or Thompson. In 2009/10 the PHB will be expanded to other areas of Manitoba (further information to follow). The monthly PHB is a maximum of **\$200 per household**, and is accompanied by mental health services to support a stable tenancy. The PHB is intended to provide better access to the private rental market.

Two additional service providers have been selected to deliver the PHB within Winnipeg: Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – Winnipeg Region, and Sara Riel, Inc. This is an opportunity for EIA staff to connect participants with mental health issues to the support services provided by these agencies.

The letter outlines the eligibility criteria for the PHB that is delivered by these two service providers. Individuals who are receiving mental health services from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) will receive the PHB through that service.

If an EIA participant is a good candidate for the PHB, complete the attached referral form with the participant and send it to CMHA Winnipeg. The referral form will be assessed by the screening committee.