



Northern Health Travel Grants

Northern Health Travel Grants are funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The grants help ^{to} pay some of the transportation costs for Northern Ontario residents who must travel at least 100 kilometres one-way for a medical specialist or hospital care that is not locally available.

Can I apply for a travel grant?

- Yes, if you live in Northern Ontario and:
- your referral is to a specialist certified by The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) or a health facility designated by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
 - your northern doctor, dentist, optometrist, midwife, nurse practitioner or chiropractor refers you to a medical specialist/health facility that is at least 100 kilometres from your area of residence.

What is a health facility designated by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care?

Any of the following:

- a cleft lip and palate clinic
- a clinic that tests for low vision
- an abortion clinic
- a clinic that can fit artificial limbs and walking aids and is approved by the ministry's Assistive Devices Program
- the Speech Foundation of Ontario, Toronto Children's Centre.

Contact your nearest Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care office to find out if a particular facility has been designated by the ministry.

Can I see any specialist I choose?

You may visit any medical specialist certified by the RCPSC, hospital or designated health facility in Ontario or Manitoba. But the ministry travel grant is based on the distance to the specialist or facility closest to you.

Can a person who helps me travel apply for a grant?

Yes, when the trip is by plane, train or bus, and your companion is 16 years of age or older. (If you and your companion travel both ways by car, you and your companion can apply for an equal share of one grant.) Also:

- you must be younger than 16, or
- the northern health provider must say on the application form before the trip that you need a companion for health and safety reasons (for example, you may be in a wheelchair or have Alzheimer's disease)
- you must travel with the companion
- a fare must be paid. Receipts, or proof of payment or use of accumulated airline credits must be sent with the application.

If I travel by car with a friend, do we each get a grant?

No, only one grant is payable if several family members or friends travel together in the same car.

How is the grant calculated?

Your grant will be based on the two-way distance to the closest specialist. A deductible of 100 kilometres on the trip will be applied. The grant is the same whether you travel by car, plane, train or bus. It is based on the return distance between the area in which you live and the nearest medical specialist or facility able to treat you. As of November 1, 2001, the grant is 34.25 cents *Per* a kilometre. If you travel by air, train or bus, you must pay a fare and provide a receipt to the ministry. You do not need a receipt if you travel by a personal vehicle.

Who is NOT eligible for a travel grant?

You do not qualify for this grant if:

- healthcare has to do with the Workers' Safety and Insurance Board
- another government program pays for your travel
- your employer pays for your trip
- healthcare is covered by a private insurance company, or
- you travel by ambulance both ways.

If you go by ambulance one-way and return by car or public transportation, you may qualify for a partial grant for the return portion of your trip.

Do not apply for a travel grant when:

- you travel to an out-of-area specialist when a local physician can perform the same service (for example, you prefer to follow up with an out-of-town specialist who performed your surgery 5 years ago, even though a local specialist can provide the same service)
- your trip is for something other than healthcare
- your travel is paid for by another agency or government program
- you are travelling to visit a sick relative in hospital
- your travel is not within Ontario or Manitoba.



This shows how much of your travel costs the grant might cover:

The grant is based on the two-way road distance minus 100 kilometres multiplied by 34.25 cents. For example, a grant from point A to point B (a one-way distance of 400 kilometres) = (400×2) minus 100 kilometres \times 34.25 cents/km = \$239.75.

Does this grant cover all travel costs?

No. The grant is to help defray the overall cost of your travel, but does not cover all expenses, such as meals and accommodation.

Who is eligible for a travel grant?

You are eligible if:

- you have a valid Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Health Card
- you live in the Districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Timiskaming or Thunder Bay
- you are referred by a doctor, dentist, optometrist, midwife, nurse practitioner or chiropractor who is practising in Northern Ontario at the time of the referral for non-emergency care outside your area
- you are referred to a designated health facility or a medical/dental specialist
- you are referred for healthcare that is an insured service under the Health Insurance Act
- the one-way distance to the nearest specialist is at least 100 km within Ontario or Manitoba.

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How do I apply for a travel grant?

There are three steps:

1. Your northern doctor, dentist, optometrist, midwife, nurse practitioner or chiropractor can give you an application form. Before you travel, this form must be filled in by you and the healthcare provider. A travelling companion must also fill in the appropriate section.

A separate form must be completed for each trip you make. A medical referral is needed with each application unless:

- the travel is for a series of treatments that can be done only at the specialist's office or facility (cancer treatment or dialysis) or
 - one follow-up visit is needed within six months of the initial referral.
2. The specialist you travel to see must fill in his or her section of the form.
 3. After your treatment, mail or take the form to your nearest Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care office. The address is on the form. Include your bus, rail or air travel receipts, as well as those for any travelling companion. Do not send photocopies.

How much time do I have to submit my application?

All applications for healthcare services rendered on or after November 1, 2004 must be received by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care within twelve (12) months from the date of service. All applications for service provided prior to November 1, 2004 must be received within six (6) months from the date of service.

How long will it take before the grant arrives?

A cheque will be mailed to you about eight weeks after the ministry processes your form.

Are grants available for travel to an abortion clinic?

Yes, if you seek an abortion at a ministry-designated health centre or hospital. You do not need a medical referral. You can get a travel grant application from your doctor, hospital or nearest Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care office.

Please refer to the Northern Health Travel Grant Application Form (cover page and general instructions page) for further information.

**The information in this brochure
may change. For more details,
contact your nearest Ministry of
Health and Long-Term Care office.**

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