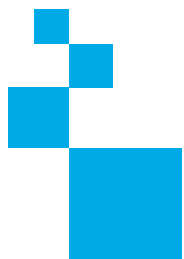


SPECIAL BENEFITS

EMPLOI-QUÉBEC



Special benefits provide additional financial assistance to help you pay for specific needs. Special benefits can be paid for a variety of needs, including **eye examinations** and **the purchase of eyeglasses** and **contact lenses**.

EYE EXAMINATION

- Your eye examination will be conducted free of charge if you have been receiving benefits under the Social Assistance Program or the Social Solidarity Program for at least 12 consecutive months. "YES" must be marked in the "Message" section of your claim slip. If "YES" is not marked, the date on which you become eligible for optometry services free of charge will be indicated on the slip. You can undergo an eye examination free of charge every 24 months.
- You must present your claim slip at the optometry or ophthalmology office.
- The eye examination fees are paid directly to the optometrist or ophthalmologist by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec.

PURCHASE OF EYEGASSES OR CONTACT LENSES

- You are eligible for the special benefit to purchase eyeglasses or contact lenses, if:
 - You have been receiving benefits under the Social Assistance Program for at least 6 consecutive months;or
 - You are receiving benefits under the Social Solidarity Program (you are eligible as soon as you are admitted to the program).
- Before purchasing eyeglasses or contact lenses, you must obtain a form completed by a CLE assistance officer or an officer at the Centre de communication avec la clientèle. The form authorizes you to purchase or replace eyeglasses or contact lenses according to certain conditions.
- The special benefit payable for the purchase of eyeglasses or contact lenses is paid directly to the optometrist or optician by the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale.
- If the total cost of the eyeglasses or contact lenses exceeds the amounts stipulated in the *Individual and Family Assistance Regulation*, you must pay the difference.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact the Bureau des renseignements et plaintes at the following toll-free number: **1-888-643-4721** or visit **mess.gouv.qc.ca**.

*The **Social Assistance Program** is aimed at people whose capacity for employment is not severely limited, and the **Social Solidarity Program** is designed for people with a severely limited capacity for employment.*

NOTE

This document is for information purposes only and may not be used for legal interpretation purposes.