



Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly

Parliamentary Question

May 2015

Date for Answer _____
(For Official Use Only)

Mr. Ezzard Miller, MLA
Name _____
(Member of the Legislative Assembly)

North Side
Constituency _____

Honourable Osbourne Bodden, JP, MLA
To Ask _____
(Elected Member)

Minister of Community Affairs, Youth & Sports

(Responsible for)

Questions

(Questions being Answered are to be typewritten and submitted to the Clerk)

Can the Honourable Minister state what are the criteria's to qualify for financial assistance from Government?

Chief Officer/ CAY&S
Head of Department

Please assist by supplying information for answer for above

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Date: _____

Mr. Ezzard Miller, MLA

Signed: _____
(M.L.A.)



Admissible

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ASKED BY
THE ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF
NORTH SIDE
TO
THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister state what are the criteria's to qualify for financial assistance from the Government?

ANSWER:

The Government offers temporary and long-term financial assistance, also referred to as "relief", to persons in need as per the Poor Persons (Relief) Law (1997 Revision) via the Needs Assessment Unit (NAU).

In the Law, "relief" is defined as "*...the relief given...to needy, destitute and sick persons out of such moneys as may be annually voted by the Legislative Assembly for that object, and includes all burial expenses*"

Families with children who are unable to meet their basic needs (food, shelter) are treated as priority. The criterion to qualify for both temporary and long-term financial assistance is as follows:

1. Persons seeking temporary financial assistance must:
 - a) be Caymanian or dependents of a Caymanian; and
 - b) have a monthly household income of \$3,000 or less.

Financial assistance given on a temporary basis is limited to an initial maximum period of three months. If the client requires an extension, the case shall be reassessed to determine eligibility for an extension of services for up to an additional three months.

Persons seeking temporary financial assistance for a period over three months are subject to bank checks at all commercial banks in the Cayman Islands.

The maximum allowance of temporary financial assistance per client within a twelve month period is \$10,000 with a lifetime cap of \$50,000.

2. Persons seeking long-term assistance, beyond the time limits of temporary assistance, must:
 - a) Be Caymanian or dependents of a Caymanian.
 - b) Have a monthly household income not exceeding \$2,000.
 - c) In cases where the person is seeking help due to ill health or disability, a medical certificate is required.
 - d) Letter of verification from place of employment.
 - e) Copies of bank statements and utility bills.
 - f) Other sources of income including rental properties, family contributions, maintenance payments, other pensions/social security and/or regular contributions from Churches or service clubs.
 - g) Land checks with Lands and Survey to verify property ownership. Applicants are required to provide a copy of land ownership papers where they own property.
 - h) Bank savings not exceeding \$8,000.

It should be noted that currently the Ministry is drafting regulations to accompany the Poor Persons (Relief) Law (1997 Revision) in order to update the legal framework for financial assistance.