

A description of the pensions payable to blind persons under the Old Age Pensions Act 1927, repealed in 1951 (and replaced by the Old Age Assistance Act, effective January 1952) will be found in the 1951 Year Book, pp. 234-235. The final statistics of operations under that program are given in the 1952-53 Year Book, p. 267.

Subsection 3.—Allowances for Disabled Persons

Under the Disabled Persons Act (2-3 Elizabeth II, c. 55) of June 26, 1954, effective January 1955, the Federal Government provides financial aid to the provinces toward the provision of allowances to persons aged 18 or over who are totally and permanently disabled.* Within the limits of the Federal Act each province is free to fix the amount of the maximum allowance payable and the maximum income allowed. The Federal Government's contribution per recipient cannot exceed 50 p.c. of \$40 per month or of the allowance paid, whichever is less.

For an unmarried person, the total income including the Federal allowance cannot exceed \$720 a year; for a married couple the limit is \$1,200 a year except that if the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, the aggregate income of the couple cannot exceed \$1,320 a year. The exact allowance payable in each case depends on the amount of outside income and the resources of the applicant and spouse. To be eligible for an allowance the applicant must not be in receipt of an allowance under the Blind Persons Act or the War Veterans Allowance Act, assistance under the Old Age Assistance Act, a pension under the Old Age Security Act, or a mother's allowance under provincial legislation. The applicant must have resided in Canada for at least 10 years immediately preceding the commencement of the allowance but may have had certain temporary absences; where the applicant has not so resided for the 10 years, he must have been resident in Canada prior to the 10 years for a total period equal to twice his absences in that period.

An applicant is considered to be totally and permanently disabled when he is suffering from a major physiological, anatomical or psychological impairment, verified by objective medical findings. The impairment must be one that is likely to continue without substantial improvement during his lifetime and one to which the concept of cure cannot be applied. Also the person must be severely limited in activities pertaining to self-care and normal living as a result of the impairment. However an applicant is not deemed to be permanently and totally disabled when a favourable rehabilitation prognosis is obtained or approved therapeutic measures are recommended by the provincial authority, and the necessary rehabilitation services or therapeutic measures are available.

The provincial authorities must suspend the payment of the allowance when in its opinion the recipient unreasonably neglects or refuses to comply with or to avail himself of training, rehabilitation or facilities provided by or available in the Province.

The allowance is not payable to a patient or resident in a mental institution, tuberculosis sanatorium, home for the aged, infirmary or institution for the care of incurables. A recipient who is resident in a nursing home or a private, charitable or public institution is eligible for the allowance only if the major part of the cost of his accommodation is being paid by himself or his family. When a recipient is required to enter a public or private hospital the allowance may be paid for no more than 62 days of hospitalization in a calendar year. For the period that a recipient is in hospital for therapeutic treatment for his disability or rehabilitation as approved by the provincial authority the allowance may continue to be paid.

* The Provinces of Newfoundland, Ontario and Alberta have operated their own programs for needy disabled persons since 1949, 1952 and 1953, respectively. All three programs continue and now receive reimbursement from the Federal Government in accordance with the terms of the new federal-provincial program.