

People on social assistance need our help during the Pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic is affecting every citizen in our Country. However, its impact is felt most severely by about half of those on social assistance: single persons who need a job, single persons with specific needs, and single persons with a recognized disability, of which almost half are women.

This pandemic has a significant negative impact on the lives of citizens in these three social assistance categories. A high number live in crowded apartments, shelters or are couch-surfing or homeless.

Many of these citizens depend on the daily meals at soup kitchens. A lot of Soup kitchens have closed their dining rooms, providing only take-out meals. Food banks are struggling to meet the extra demands on their services.

During this crisis it has been suggested to stock up on food, to reduce going out often and contacting or spreading the virus. This is only possible for citizens who have money to buy in advance, have freezers and big refrigerators. Most of the citizens we are referring to have no money to buy in advance and no places to store food.

The Covid-19 crisis has given these citizens an extra personal burden. Many have physical and mental challenges and their stress level is presently extremely high. Their precarious financial situation, and the closure of public spaces like libraries where they had access to computers and could socialize is making it difficult for them to survive.

We propose that the Department of Social Development add an extra amount on the monthly cheque destined to these persons.