

Understanding Expanded Social Package



The Expanded Social Package (ESP) gives qualifying citizens in the City access to Free Basic Services (FBS), on their municipal services such as Rates, Refuse, Sewer, Water and Electricity. Free basic services is defined as the minimum rebate amount provided to individuals sufficient to cover or cater for the basic needs of the household. Only indigent citizens qualify for FBS and the programme is solely intended to assist them. Citizens are required to register with the City to qualify for free basic services. The City will vet every application, selecting only those citizens that meet the criteria, based on this only successful applicant will be granted indigent status. The City can also decide on the extent to which they subsidize an indigent household.

The City recognizes that the economic status of a family might improve over time. To ensure that only the poorest families are catered for, the City requires registered citizens to reapply for indigent status every six months. Due to infrastructural constraints, there are instances where the City might not be able to service all indigent households that have successfully registered as a result of technical errors and inadequate infrastructure. In such cases, the City will strive to find alternative remedies to better the circumstances of the applicant.

The programme targets vulnerable citizens such as:

- The unemployed;
- Women and children;
- Youth;
- Senior citizens;
- Persons with Disabilities (PWDs);
- Displaced persons.

Poverty Definition & Income Bands

Band 1	R6 086.37	The lowest level of subsidy aimed at helping those on the borderline of poverty.
Band 2	R4 057.57	The middle level of subsidy, aimed at those who have some formal income but whose earnings fall below the survival level defined by the poverty index.
Band 3	R1 064.27	The highest level of subsidy, aimed at those with no formal income living in the most deprived circumstances

NB: Annually on 01 November in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) the ESP threshold amount increases. The City has different methods to identify indigent citizens.



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