|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE** |  | PhotoMail Image 97-137-1**DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**1430 NICOSIA |

**SCHEME FOR THE PROVISION OF THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY CARD IN CYPRUS**

**AIM**

1. The aim of the Scheme is to encourage, improve and facilitate the mobility of persons with disabilities as well as to enhance their participation in the social, cultural and leisure sector of life by the issue and provision of the "European Disability Card", which will allow access of persons with disabilities to benefits in the Member States participating in the specific European Program. The following Member States of the EU are currently participating in the Program: Cyprus, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Romania.

**BENEFICIARIES**

1. Beneficiaries of the European Disability Card in Cyprus are:
2. Cypriot and European citizens with disabilities who have a permanent residence in the area controlled by the Republic of Cyprus for at least consecutive 12 months
3. Persons with disabilities with recognized refugee status or supplementary protection status, in accordance with the Refugee Law.

provided that they satisfy the provisions of the Scheme.

1. “Person with disability” for the purposes of this Scheme means a person who has long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others and whose disability is certified by the Disability Assessment Centers of the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities as moderate or severe or total disability.
2. When the person with disability needs to be accompanied by another person, as certified by the Disability Assessment Centers of the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, the same benefits will also be enjoyed by the assistant of the person with disability and the European Disability Card will be marked with an "A" (Assistant).
3. A person ceases to be a Card beneficiary when he/she does not meet the conditions of the scheme and in particular:
4. When it is ascertained that his/her condition has improved significantly and does not fall anymore within the above definition;
5. When he/she moves from the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus;
6. Upon death.

**BENEFITS**

1. The European Disability Card has a specific format determined by the European Commission and the Member States participating in the relevant European Program. The benefits for the holders of the European Disability Card are set out in the “LIST OF BENEFITS OF THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY CARD' which constitutes a part of the Scheme. The List can be differentiated and enriched in the future, as it will be published on the special website of the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. Through this Website, anyone interested can find out how to use the Card and enjoy its benefits in Cyprus. Furthermore on the Website there will be information about the benefits provided to cardholders in each of the other Member States participating in the Program.

**SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

1. An application should be submitted to the Department for Social Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities, by completing the standard form, together with the relevant certificates.

**EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATIONS**

1. The decision to approve or reject the application shall be taken by the Director of the Department for Social Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities or by another authorised Officer of the Department, following a brief disability assessment and interview by an Special Assessment Committee which will report on the certification of disability and the satisfaction of the beneficiary's definition.
2. The Special Assessment Committee shall consist of at least two (2) doctors or other health and rehabilitation professionals with specialties related to the applicant's disability.
3. No new certification will be required, unless deemed necessary, for beneficiaries of the following benefits:
4. Severe Motor Disability Allowance
5. Care Allowance for Quadriplegic Persons
6. Care Allowance for Paraplegic Persons
7. Special Allowance for Blind Persons
8. Mobility Allowance
9. Allowance to Persons with Disability for the Provision of a Car
10. Financial Assistance for the Purchase of a Wheelchair
11. Guaranteed Minimum Income – Disability Allowance
12. Following the approval of the proposed Scheme by the Council of Ministers and its entry into force, the publication of the Disability Booklets which were issued by the former Disability Care Service of the Department of Labour until 2009, and continued to be issued by the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities from 2009 until today, is terminated (Disability Booklets already issued will continue to apply for the same purposes as for those issued but will not apply for the benefits of the European Disability Card).

SC/