



Resident's Guide to Emergency Relief Funding for COVID-19

Direct Financial Assistance Programs & Support Programs Available for British Columbia

Updated March 30, 2020

We have collated a list of emergency financial support being provided by the Federal and Provincial sectors. For the most up-to-date information, please reference the government websites found in each section under the subheading "More Information."

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (Federal)

Every Canadian who is losing income due to the pandemic is eligible to apply for CERB, which offers \$2,000 per month for up to four (4) months.

Who is Eligible?

Canadians who:

- lost their job
- are sick with COVID-19
- are quarantined
- are taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19
- are working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are out of school/daycare or who are sick
- are contract workers and self-employed who would not otherwise be eligible for EI
- are workers still employed, but not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19

Where to Apply

The online portal will be available on April 6, 2020. To speed up the application process, sign up now for My Account through the CRA. Secondly, signing up for Direct Deposit will help get money in to your account faster once your application has processed.

More Information

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>

Employment Insurance (Federal)

The EI Sickness Benefits Employment Insurance one week waiting period has been waived for people in self-isolation. It can provide up to 15 weeks of financial assistance for those who cannot work for medical reasons up to 55% of earnings up to a maximum of \$573 a week.

Who is Eligible?

Canadians who are unable to work for medical reasons, whose regular weekly earnings from work have decreased by more than 40% for at least one week and who have accumulated 600 insured hours of work in the 52 weeks before the start of the claim or since the start of the last claim, whichever is shorter.

Where to Apply

Government of Canada website

More Information

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness.html>

BC Emergency Benefit for Workers

The BC Emergency Benefit for Workers will provide a one-time \$1,000 payment to people who lost income because of COVID-19. Online Portal for both BC Provincial Rent Support and BC Emergency Benefit for Workers will be available mid-April and the one-time payment will be paid in May 2020.

Who is Eligible?

B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance, or the new federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit are eligible.

Where to Apply

Online Portal available mid-April

More Information

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#BCEBW>

BC Provincial Rent Support

The new temporary rent supplement will provide up to \$500 per month (4 months), paid directly to the landlord. Online Portal for both BC Provincial Rent Support and BC Emergency Benefit for Workers will be available mid-April and the one-time payment will be paid in May 2020.

Who is Eligible?

The supplement will be available to renters who are facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, but do not qualify for existing rental assistance programs.

Where to Apply

Online Portal available mid-April

More Information

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0048-000561>

BC Hydro customers can defer payments or access grants to help pay their hydro bills

The COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program provides customers the option to defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty.

Who is Eligible?

Customers facing temporary financial hardship and possible disconnection of their service due to job loss, illness, or loss of a family member may also be eligible.

Where to Apply

Customers are encouraged to call BC Hydro's customer team

More Information

https://www.bchydro.com/news/press_centre/news_releases/2020/bill-relief-covid-19.html

ICBC customers can defer monthly payments for up to 90 days

Customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan, who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, can defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty.

Who is Eligible?

ICBC customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan are eligible.

Where to Apply

ICBC online resource tool

More Information

<https://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/contact-us/Pages/covid-19.aspx>

Climate Action Tax Credit is increased one-time for moderate to low income families

A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 for moderate to low-income families. An adult will receive up to \$218.00 (increased from \$43.50). A child will receive \$64.00 (increased from \$12.75).

Who is Eligible?

If you're a resident of B.C. and you are 19 years of age or older, or have a spouse or common-law partner, or are a parent who resides with your child.

Where to Apply

No application - received from CRA

More Information

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#CATC>

B.C. Student Loan payments are automatically frozen for six (6) months

Starting March 30, 2020, B.C. student loan payments are automatically frozen for six (6) months.

Who is Eligible?

Anyone currently repaying these loans is eligible.

Where to Apply

No need to apply

More Information

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#BCEBW>