



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

Direct Financial Assistance Programs & Support Programs Available for Ontario

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

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/department-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>

Ontario's Action Plan - Parents

Helping families pay for the extra costs associated with school and daycare closures during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing a one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs.

Who is Eligible?

Parents of children up to 12 years old, including children enrolled in private schools.

Where to Apply

Available on Apr. 6 through an online portal where parents can apply

More Information

<https://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2020/03/ontarios-action-plan-responding-to-covid-19.html>

Ontario's Action Plan - Seniors

Doubling of the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) maximum payment for low-income seniors, for six (6) months starting in April 2020. This would increase the maximum payment to \$166 per month for individuals and \$332 per month for couples.

Who is Eligible?

Low income seniors already on GAINS are eligible.

Where to Apply

Do not need to apply

More Information

<https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/action-plan.html#section-3>

Suspension of Ontario Student Assistance Program loan repayments

Borrowers will not be required to make any loan or interest payments between March 30, 2020 and September 30, 2020.

Who is Eligible?

All Ontarians currently repaying these loans are eligible.

Where to Apply

Do not need to apply

More Information

<https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/action-plan.html#section-3>

Electricity Rate Relief

The Government of Ontario issued an Emergency Order to provide a measure of temporary emergency relief for electricity customers starting on March 24, 2020. Residential customers on time-of-use (TOU) pricing under the OEB's Regulated Price Plan (RPP) will pay 10.1 ¢/kWh no matter what time of day the electricity is consumed. This means that these TOU customers will be paying the off-peak price throughout the day. The Government has indicated that it intends to keep the 10.1 ¢/kWh pricing in place for 45 days.

Where to Apply

Do not need to apply

More Information

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/3/ontario-providing-electricity-relief-to-families-small-businesses-and-farms-during-covid-19.html>