

COVID-19: SOCIAL BENEFITS, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & CHILD BENEFITS (March 25, 2020)

In an effort to help you understand the changes to current social emergency assistance and child benefits as a result of COVID-19, we have prepared the following information. Some of the programs below existed before COVID-19, while others have been modified or introduced recently. Note: there may be further programs and changes to these programs as a result of the March 25 aid package announcement.

Ontario Works (OW)	Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
<p>In response to COVID-19, the Ontario government has made the following changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Payments will no longer be suspended because of a recipient's failure to report income. 2. Recipients do not have to provide written documentation. 3. Eligibility verification process reviews are on hold. 4. Recipients can access additional discretionary benefits by contacting their caseworkers. <p>You can apply for OW if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are a resident of Ontario <u>AND</u> • You are in financial need. <p>A single person on OW receives \$733 per month. Any income from sources other than employment is generally deducted dollar-for-dollar from OW. If you qualify for other more generous income support programs, such as Employment Insurance (EI), you may not qualify for OW. You can apply for OW online.</p>	<p>You can apply for ODSP benefits if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are a resident of Ontario <u>AND</u> • You are in financial need <u>AND</u> • You can show that you have a substantial physical or mental impairment that is expected to last at least one year and leads to a substantial restriction in activities of daily living. <p>A single person on ODSP receives \$1,169 per month.</p> <p>Healthy individuals who exhibit mild symptoms of COVID-19 for a shorter period of time are unlikely to qualify for ODSP. Others who are more seriously affected by COVID-19 might qualify for ODSP on a case-by-case basis if they meet the above criteria. You can apply for ODSP online.</p>
Emergency Assistance	Canada Child Benefit (CCB) and Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) Transition Child Benefit (TCB)
<p>In response to COVID-19, the Ontario government has announced that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Emergency Assistance is available for those who do not qualify for federal assistance (EI and other emergency benefits). 2. Emergency Assistance will be available for up to 48 days at a time (up from 16 days). 3. Families and individuals affected by COVID-19 can apply for Emergency Assistance more often than once every six months. <p>You can apply for Emergency Assistance if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are a low-income family or individual <u>AND</u> • You are not already receiving OW or ODSP or federal assistance (EI) <u>AND</u> • You are not a tourist or a visitor <u>AND</u> • You face an emergency situation where you cannot meet basic needs or shelter expenses. <p>The amount of assistance is up to the discretion of an administrator, and it may include an amount for basic needs, shelter, and benefits.</p> <p>You can apply for Emergency Assistance online.</p>	<p>In response to COVID-19, the federal government has announced that the CCB payment will be increased for one time only in May 2020. Each family receiving CCB will get an additional payment of \$300/child as part of their scheduled payment.</p> <p>The OCB is an additional payment provided by the Province of Ontario to low- and moderate- income families who receive the CCB, up to a maximum of \$120 per child.</p> <p>For those families who receive social assistance but are ineligible for the CCB or OCB, Ontario provides the Transition Child Benefit (TCB), which is \$230 per child each month.</p> <p>There has been no change to the OCB or TCB as of yet.</p>

This information is solely for informational purposes. Given all of the rapid changes happening in response to COVID-19, we will seek to update our resources on a regular basis. We urge you to consult with us if you have any specific legal questions about a client's situation.