

OW and ODSP Extended COVID19 Emergency Benefit Application Information

Last updated May 12, 2020

What is the COVID19 Emergency Benefit?

The Extended COVID19 Emergency Benefit is available to eligible OW and ODSP recipients who are facing extra hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of May 1, 2020, it is a monthly benefit that, once approved, will be sent to you in May, June and July 2020 (no longer a one-time payment). It is a flat monthly rate of \$100/month for singles and \$200/month for families.

Who is eligible?

It is available to anyone on ODSP or OW who is NOT also receiving CERB. (There are some exceptions to this such as any case where CERB is being treated as fully exempt, such as: youth under 18, adults in full-time secondary school, and full-time post-secondary students).

How do you apply?

If you received the Emergency Benefit in March or April and still qualify, you are supposed to receive the extended benefit **automatically** in May, June, and July. (Note: it is always good practice to double check your benefits are in place before the 18th of the month, to ensure funds will be on your statement at the end of the month).

If you have never received the benefit, and you qualify, a separate ODSP office has been established to handle applications. For that reason, there are a few ways to apply for this benefit (please read page 2 for a voicemail script and email template):

OW Recipients: Call your worker directly to request the benefit

ODSP Recipients:

- Call your ODSP office to request the benefit through the receptionist
- Call the Emergency Benefit Application Line 1-888-444-2412 and leave a voicemail
- Email ODSP.EmergencyBenefit@ontario.ca with your request

Where can I get more information?

If you want to check the status of your application, you can use the Interactive Voice Response system (IVR) at 1-800-808-2268 or MyBenefits at mybenefits.mcsc.gov.on.ca. For any other questions, please contact your local office.

Some web links for further more information and support:

- <https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/>
- <https://stepstojustice.ca/questions/covid-19/odsp-giving-people-extra-help-because-covid-19>

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SCRIPT (for voicemail or when speaking to a worker):

I am calling to request the COVID19 Emergency Benefit. My name is _____ and my Member ID is _____. *(if you do not know your member ID, say your full name, date of birth, and address).*

I do NOT receive the CERB.

These are some of the additional costs I have related to COVID19: *(say any and all that apply to you):*

- Personal protective equipment for visiting hospital or clinics
- Cleaning supplies as I am caring for someone who is COVID19 positive
- Delivery costs for food, medical supplies and other essentials as I cannot leave my home
- Travel costs to pick up food, medical supplies and other essentials as I am avoiding public transit
- Increased costs for food/supplies due to children being home from school
- *Other?*

EMAIL TEMPLATE: *Make sure to adapt the following to your own needs – do not copy and paste without first reading through!*

To: ODSP.EmergencyBenefit@ontario.ca

Subject: COVID19 Emergency Benefit

Hello,

I would like to apply for the COVID19 emergency benefit. This is my information: *(insert your member ID. If you do not know your ID, include your full name, date of birth and address).* I do NOT receive the CERB.

I need the money to help with purchasing the following items *(modify this list to reflect your needs):*

- Personal protective equipment for visiting hospital or clinics
- Cleaning supplies as I am caring for someone who is COVID19 positive
- Delivery costs for food, medical supplies and other essentials as I cannot leave my home
- Travel costs to pick up food, medical supplies and other essentials as I am avoiding public transit
- Increased costs for food/supplies due to children being home from school
- *Other?*