



INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE
Centre d'action pour la sécurité du revenu

OW & ODSP Rates and the Ontario Child Benefit

as of September / October 30, 2018

The provincial government announced a 1.5% increase to Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates on July 31, 2018. Increases will appear on OW and ODSP cheques and direct deposits received at the end of September.

The table below shows current and new Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts for different family types. It also shows current maximum Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) amounts, which were increased by the rate of inflation in July 2018. The OCB is an important part of the total incomes of people on OW and ODSP who have children.

Please read the notes below for more information.

Family Type	Current				New as of Sept / Oct 2018				
	OW	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total
Single		\$337	\$384	\$0	\$721	\$343	\$390	\$0	\$733
Single Parent - 1 child		\$354	\$632	\$114	\$1,100	\$360	\$642	\$117	\$1,119
Single Parent - 2 children		\$354	\$686	\$229	\$1,269	\$360	\$697	\$234	\$1,291
Couple		\$486	\$632	\$0	\$1,118	\$494	\$642	\$0	\$1,136
Couple - 1 child		\$486	\$686	\$114	\$1,286	\$494	\$697	\$117	\$1,308
Couple - 2 children		\$486	\$744	\$229	\$1,459	\$494	\$756	\$234	\$1,484
ODSP									
Single		\$662	\$489	\$0	\$1,151	\$672	\$497	\$0	\$1,169
Single Parent - 1 child		\$805	\$769	\$114	\$1,688	\$815	\$781	\$117	\$1,713
Single Parent - 2 children		\$805	\$833	\$230	\$1,868	\$815	\$846	\$234	\$1,895
Couple		\$954	\$769	\$0	\$1,723	\$969	\$781	\$0	\$1,750
Couple - 1 child		\$954	\$833	\$114	\$1,901	\$969	\$846	\$117	\$1,932
Couple - 2 children		\$954	\$904	\$230	\$2,088	\$969	\$918	\$234	\$2,121

NOTES:

- The amounts shown in the chart above are maximums and may not apply in every situation. For example, people who pay less for their housing than the maximum shelter amount will only receive the amount they pay. People on OW or ODSP should ask their caseworker about the particular amounts that apply in their case.
- The actual amount of Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) that a family gets may be lower than the maximum. The amount will depend on the net income of the family. Note that families with children must file their income tax returns in order to receive the OCB.

- Children in the examples shown in the chart are under age 18.
- The amounts shown for couples on ODSP apply only to situations where one person in the couple has a disability.
- Couples on ODSP who both have a disability get a basic needs and shelter rate that is capped at a specified maximum. This “double-disabled” rate will increase from \$1,941 to \$1,971 per month. Other benefits that these couples may be eligible for, like the Special Diet Allowance or the Remote Communities Allowance, are added on top of the “double-disabled” rate. Benefits for dependent children they may have are also added on top.
- People on OW and ODSP may be eligible for other provincial and federal benefits, such as the Ontario Trillium Benefit, the GST/HST credit or the Canada Child Benefit. They may also qualify for other benefits through OW or ODSP. These additional benefits are not shown in the chart because amounts vary depending on each person or household’s situation. See links below for more information.

The 1.5% increase will also apply to the following rates and benefits:

- the Advanced Age Allowance
- board and lodging rates
- the Special Boarder Allowance
- the guide dog benefit
- the Personal Needs Allowance
- temporary care assistance
- First Nations emergency hostel services per diems
- amounts for dependents with dependents, financially independent adults living with parents, and sponsored immigrants living with their sponsors
- amounts for residents of long-term care homes, chronic care facilities, community residences (provincial placements), interval and transition homes, intensive support residences, and supported group living residences.
- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
- the Remote Communities Allowance.

The 1.5% increase will not apply to:

- the Special Diet Allowance
- the Pregnancy / Breast-feeding Nutritional Allowance.

Links to information about benefits outside OW / ODSP:

- Ontario Child Benefit: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/financialhelp/ocb/index.aspx>
- Ontario Trillium Benefit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-trillium-benefit>
- Canada Child Benefit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview.html>
- GST/HST credit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/goods-services-tax-harmonized-sales-tax-gst-hst-credit.html>