

Ontario Extends ODSP/OW Emergency Benefit Until July 2020

In March 2020, a number of temporary changes were made to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW). Changes include:

- Granting of one-time [Emergency Benefit](#) of up to \$100 for individuals and up to \$200 for families
- Modifying certain requirements, including no longer suspending people who do not report income and suspending Eligibility Verification Process reviews
- Allowing for extension of Special Diet Allowance, Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Nutritional Allowance, Mandatory Special Necessities benefits and medical transportation/supplies without endorsement from a health professional

Effective May 1, 2020, the ODSP/OW Emergency Benefit has been extended until July 2020. The Emergency Benefit is for people who have additional costs related to COVID-19 (e.g., travel costs to pick up essential items for people avoiding public transit, delivery costs for essential items for people or families who are self-isolated or quarantined). Further information is below:

- A monthly rate of \$100 for individuals and \$200 for families will be provided to all eligible benefit units (until July 2020)
- Benefit units who received the benefit in March or April will automatically continue to receive it (until July 2020)
- Benefit units who did not receive the benefit in March or April will have to request it
- Most benefit units who receive the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will not be eligible for the ODSP/OW Emergency Benefit. However, CERB payments to the following groups of people will not impact eligibility for the ODSP/OW Emergency Benefit:
 - People under 18 years-old
 - People over 18 in secondary school on a full-time basis (at least 17.5 hours per week of instruction and/or 3 credits per semester or 6 credits per year)
 - People in post-secondary school on a full-time basis (at least 60% of a regular course load or 40% for those with a permanent disability)

For further information about ODSP and the Emergency Benefit, see [here](#).

For further information about OW and the Emergency Benefit, see [here](#).

For answers to other questions about ODSP and OW, see [here](#).

People living with HIV can contact [HALCO](#) for legal services. People not living with HIV can call their [local community legal clinic](#).

May 11, 2020