

as of April 14, 2020

Who can Apply for Ontario Works (OW)?

If you are not eligible for the Federal CERB and E.I. benefits you may still be eligible for OW benefits.

OW regular benefits-to be eligible you must:

- Live in Ontario
- Need money right away to pay for food and shelter
- Be willing to take part in activities that will help you find a job (although there may be exemptions of this during COVID-19)
- Meet the financial eligibility criteria (low income and low assets)

You do NOT need to be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident to be eligible for OW.

You can apply if you are **not**:

- A tourist/ visitor
- You have a removal order and there is nothing stopping you from leaving Canada

This means that if you are in Ontario with a temporary visa or without immigration status and you are not able to leave Canada due to the current COVID-19 situation, you should be eligible to apply for Ontario Works. **If your application is denied you should appeal and a legal clinic can assist you.**

You can start the application process either online or by phone.

Online application:

https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/apply_online.aspx

With the community quarantine still in place, we encourage everyone to:

Stay home and #StopTheSpread.

Ontario Works Emergency Assistance

Do you urgently need financial help because of COVID-19? If you are not already receiving support from Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program, you can apply for Ontario Works emergency assistance. You can do this instead of applying for Ontario Work Regular Benefits if you need some short-term help.

To be eligible for the emergency benefit, you must:

- **not qualify** for federal assistance (EI or CERB)
- **not** already receiving OW, ODSP or any federal assistance
- **not** a tourist or a visitor; and
- be in a crisis or emergency situation, and do not have enough money for things like food and housing

For example, a crisis or emergency includes situations where you:

- have been affected by COVID-19
- are being evicted from your home
- are in or are leaving an abusive relationship
- are worried about your safety

Ontario Works will make Emergency Assistance available for up to 48 days at a time (up from 16) and allow families and individuals affected by COVID-19 to apply for Emergency Assistance more often than once every six months. Families and individuals affected by COVID-19 can apply more often

- The amount you receive is discretionary. There is no clear information about how much you will receive.
- Assistance will be paid once every 16 days.

You can start the application process either online or by phone.

Online application: https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/apply_online.aspx

Benefits For People Who Are Already on Ontario Works / Ontario Disability

Ontario Works and ODSP recipients can access emergency benefit funds for **COVID-19 related expenses** for both programs: up to \$100 for single individuals and up to \$200 for families.

This funding can be used to meet a broad range of needs, for example: cleaning supplies, transportation, food or clothing that individuals and families may require due to COVID-19. To apply you can call your caseworker.

You can reach SALCO with social assistance inquiries at:

(416)-487-6371

or

Find your local legal clinic at www.legalaid.on.ca/legal-clinics/ or call: 416 979 1446