



COVID-19 FACTSHEETS: Canada Emergency Response Benefit

Last Updated on April 1st, 2020



PLEASE NOTE:

Information is changing rapidly. It is important for readers to confirm accuracy of this information.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

If you have lost income because of COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will provide you with temporary income support. The Government of Canada will start receiving CERB applications on April 6, 2020. The program will provide benefits of \$2,000 a month, for a maximum of 16 weeks between March 15 (retroactive) and October 3, 2020.

You will receive your benefit payments within 10 days from when you submitted your application. Your payments will be retroactive to your eligibility date. Payments will be made through direct deposit or by cheque. You will be paid more quickly if you choose direct deposit.

Eligibility

You may be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit if you:

- Reside in Canada and are over 15 years of age; AND
- have a Social Insurance Number (SIN); AND
- have made \$5,000 of income or EI maternity or parental benefits in 2019 or the past 12 months (this does not have to have been earned in Canada, but you must have resided in Canada); AND
- have been (or expect to be) without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period; AND
- have stopped working because of COVID-19, this can be for a variety of reasons:
 - have been laid off due to COVID-19;
 - your employer has not laid you off but your hours have been reduced to zero;
 - are self-employed;
 - have to self-isolate or are sick from COVID-19;
 - have to take care of someone that went into quarantine; or
 - have to stay at home with your children because of school/childcare closures

NOTE: Workers who are not Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents may be eligible to receive the benefit during the duration of their work permit if they stop working for reasons related to COVID-19 and meet the other eligibility criteria.

NOTE: The benefit payment is only available to individuals who have stopped work as a result of reasons related to COVID-19. If you are looking for a job but haven't stopped working because of COVID-19, you are not eligible for the benefit. If you quite your job voluntarily, you are not eligible for the benefit.

How to Apply

The Government of Canada will start receiving applications on **April 6, 2020** through Canada Revenue Agency's [MyAccount](#) and by telephone: 1-800-959-2019. You will be able to apply based on the month you were born in, as described in the chart below:

DAY TO APPLY FOR THE CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your best day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	April 6
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	April 7
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	April 8
October, November, or December	Thursdays	April 9
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	

You will need to provide your personal contact information, your Social Insurance Number and confirm that you meet the eligibility requirements. You may be asked to provide additional documentation to verify your eligibility at a future date.

For detailed instructions on how to apply visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html#how>

NOTE: Prior to April 6, individuals who are without work and are eligible for EI can continue to apply for [Employment Insurance](#). After April 6, there will be one portal to assist with all individuals. If you have already applied to EI, but have not yet received benefits, your application will automatically be assessed for the Canada Emergency Relief Benefit.

NOTE: If you are not eligible for Employment Insurance, find out how you can get ready to apply for the CERB through the [Canada Revenue Agency](#).

For more details about CERB visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>.