

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

If you have stopped working because of COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) may provide you with temporary income support. The CERB provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

The benefit will be available to workers:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- Who have stopped working because of COVID-19 and have not voluntarily quit their job or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits;
- Who had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and
- Who are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment or self-employment income.

Self-Employed Individuals

[You should apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit through the Canada Revenue Agency.](#)

The CERB supports Canadians by providing financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who are directly affected by COVID-19.

It provides a payment of \$2,000 for a 4-week period (the same as \$500 a week) for up to 16 weeks.

After you apply, you should get your payment in 3 business days if you signed up for direct deposit. If you haven't, you should get it in about 10 business days.

Who can apply

To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

- You reside in Canada
- You are 15 years old or more when you apply
- **For your first CERB application:**
 - You have stopped or will stop working due to reasons related to COVID-19
 - For at least 14 days in a row for the period you are applying for, you will not receive:
 - employment income
 - self-employment income
 - provincial or federal benefits related to maternity or paternity leave
- **For your subsequent CERB applications:**
 - You continue to not work due to reasons related to COVID-19
 - For the 4 week period you are applying for, you will not receive:
 - employment income;
 - self-employment income; or

- provincial or federal benefits related to maternity or paternity leave.
- You have not quit your job voluntarily
- You did not apply for, nor receive, CERB or EI benefits from Service Canada for the same eligibility period
- You earned a minimum of \$5,000 income in the last 12 months or in 2019 from one or more of the following sources:
 - employment income
 - self-employment income
 - provincial or federal benefits related to maternity or paternity leave

Eligibility periods

Eligibility periods are fixed in 4-week periods.

If your situation continues, you can re-apply for CERB for multiple 4-week periods, to a maximum of 16 weeks (4 periods).

See 4-week eligibility periods

How to apply

There are **two ways to apply**:

- **Online with CRA My Account**

If you don't have a CRA account, register here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-individuals/account-individuals.html>

If you do not have a CRA My Account but you have a My Service Canada Account, you do not need to register for a CRA My Account. Instead, you should follow the steps below.

- Sign in to [My Service Canada Account](#)
 - Look for the link to "Switch to Canada Revenue Agency" and then "I agree" on the Registration and authentication page. This transfers you to CRA My Account.
 - Update your address and direct deposit with CRA (CRA does not have your personal information from your My Service Canada Account).
 - Complete the application once it becomes available on April 6 onwards.
- **Over the phone 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041**

(You will need your SIN and Postal Code)

To ensure your application will be as easy and quick as possible, here is how to get started:

1 – If you are applying online, you will need a CRA My Account

2 – Your payment will be delivered by direct deposit or by cheques

3 – Determine the best day of the week to apply

Whether you apply online or by phone, we want to provide the best service possible to everyone. To help manage this, we have set up specific days for you to apply. Please use the following guidelines:

Days 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	Not applicable

After you apply

If you are eligible for the CERB, you can expect \$2,000 (\$500 per week) for a 4-week period.

The CERB is paid by [direct deposit](#) or by cheque if your direct deposit information is not on file.

After you apply, you should get your payment in 3 business days if you signed up for direct deposit. If you haven't, you should get it in about 10 business days. If your situation continues, you can re-apply for a payment for multiple 4-week periods, to a maximum of 16 weeks (4 periods).

Note: These benefits are taxable and you will need to report any payments received on next year's tax filing. An information slip will be made available for the 2020 tax year in My Account under Tax Information Slips (T4 and more).

Questions about applying for CERB with CRA?

Find answers to common questions with this automated help line:

1-833-966-2099

To speak with an agent about CERB, or CRA My Account:

1-800-959-8281

Employees

You should apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit through Service Canada and the Employment Insurance program.

To be eligible to receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) from Service Canada, the following must apply:

- You must reside in Canada
- You are 15 years of age or older at the time of application
- You have stopped or will stop working for reasons related to COVID-19, or because you are unable to work due to illness, or because you lost your employment for other reasons beyond your control; and
 - If you are submitting for the first time, that you have stopped or will stop working for reasons related to COVID-19 for at least 14 consecutive days within the 4 week benefit period
 - If you are filing for a subsequent period and did not return to work since your previous claim, you did not receive any employment or self-employment income since collecting the benefit and do not expect to receive any employment or self-employment income within the 4 week benefit period
 - If you are filing for a subsequent period after having returned to work between periods, that you have stopped or will stop working for reasons related to COVID-19 for at least 14 consecutive days within the 4 week benefit period
- You have not quit your job voluntarily
- You are not receiving nor have you applied for the CERB from the Canada Revenue Agency
- You are not receiving Employment Insurance benefits for the same benefit period
- You have earned a minimum of \$5,000 in income within the last 12 months or in the 2019 calendar year from either:
 - Employment income
 - Self-employment income

Note: if you are subsequently determined to be ineligible, you must repay the benefit.

Link to apply – Service Canada

<https://srv270.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/AW/introduction?GoCTemplateCulture=en-CA>