

Apply for Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) with CRA

The CERB supports Canadians by providing urgently needed financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who have been directly affected by COVID-19. It provides a payment of \$2,000 for a 4 week period (equivalent to \$500 a week) for up to 16 weeks.

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Unsure about whether you should [apply for CERB with Service Canada or CRA?](#)

Who can apply

The CERB will be available to workers:

- residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- who have stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance 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.

The income of at least \$5,000 may be from any or a combination of the following sources: employment; self-employment; maternity and parental benefits under the Employment Insurance program and/or similar benefits paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan.

The Benefit is only available to individuals who stopped work and are not earning employment or self-employment income as a result of reasons related to COVID-19. If you have not stopped working because of COVID-19, you are not eligible for the Benefit.

Once you apply, you can expect to get your payment in 3 business days if you have signed up for direct deposit, and approximately 10 business days if you haven't signed up for direct deposit.

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

How to apply

Applications for the CERB will begin the week of **Monday, April 6, 2020**.

There are **two ways to apply**:

- Online with CRA My Account
- Over the phone with an automated phone service

Get ready now

Although you can't apply yet, you can get ready now to ensure your application will be as easy and quick as possible.

If you are applying online:

1 – You will need a CRA My Account to apply

Do you have a CRA My Account?

- Yes - I have a CRA My Account

Make sure your direct deposit and mailing information is up to date with the CRA.

[Sign in to your CRA account](#)

- Yes - but I forget my CRA user ID or password

You can recover them by going to My Account, selecting 'CRA Login', and selecting 'Forgot your user ID' or 'Forgot your password'.

For 'Forgot your user ID' you will need:

- Your SIN
- Your date of birth
- Your copy of this year's or last year's assessed individual tax return
- Your answers to the security questions you set up during registration

For 'Forgot your password' you will need to answer the security questions you set up during registration.

[Sign in to your CRA account](#)

- Yes - but I'm locked out

As there are currently fewer call agents available to assist due to COVID-19, the quickest way for you to apply for the CERB at this time would be to do so via our automated telephone service (see [Applying by phone](#)).

- No - but I have a My Service Canada Account

Sign in to CRA My Account with a My Service Canada Account

Since you have a My Service Canada Account, you do not need to register for a CRA My Account.

After you sign in to My Service Canada Account:

1. 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.
2. Update your address and direct deposit with CRA (CRA does not have your personal information from your My Service Canada Account)
3. You can then complete the application when it becomes available on April 6.

[Sign in to My Service Canada Account](#)

- No - I don't have either

Register for a CRA My Account to apply for the CERB.

[Register for CRA My Account](#)

If you are applying online or on phone:

1 – Your payment will be delivered by direct deposit or by cheque

Is your direct deposit and mailing information up to date with the CRA?

- Yes – My direct deposit and mailing information is up to date with the CRA

Great. This will ensure your benefit payment will be delivered to you.

- No - I need to update direct deposit and mailing information

Sign in to your My CRA Account to update your direct deposit information.

The following financial institutions can also securely update your direct deposit information with the CRA.

- [Desjardins](#) members can sign up online
- [TD Canada Trust](#) customers can sign up by phone or in person at their branch

[Sign in to your CRA My Account](#)

2 - Determine the best day of the week to apply once the system is available

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:

Day to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit

If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on
January, February or March	Mondays
April, May, or June	Tuesdays
July, August, or September	Wednesdays
October, November, or December	Thursdays
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

Start to apply (ready April 6)

ApplyOnline:

Follow instructions below before you [Sign in to your CRA My Account](#)

Instructions once you're in your CRA My Account

1. Go to **COVID-19: Canada Emergency Response Benefit** in the alert banner at the top of the page
2. Select the period you want to apply for
3. Declare that you qualify for the benefit
4. Confirm we have the right payment information

ApplyBy phone:

Call the automated toll-free line

Before you call

To verify your identity, you'll need

- your social insurance number (SIN)
- postal code

If you are calling the CRA on behalf of someone else, you must be an [authorized representative](#)

Telephone number

Follow instructions below before you call **1-800-959-2019**

Instructions

1. Select your language preference: English or French
2. Follow the prompts to enter your information, including:
 - your SIN
 - confirmation of your postal code
 - the period you are applying for
3. Declare that you qualify for the benefit

The CRA will issue payments by direct deposit or cheque, based on the payment method we have on file for you.

Both of these services are available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. Both services are closed from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. (Eastern time) for maintenance.

After you apply

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

It is a single payment for a 4-week period.

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).

Understand the payment periods

Each payment of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) covers a 4-week period, beginning March 15, 2020. When you apply, it is for a single payment for the 4-week period. If your situation continues, you can apply for an additional 4-week period, up to a maximum of 16 weeks (4 periods in total).

What are the payment methods

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

When to expect payment

- If you are getting your payment by direct deposit, expect your payment within 3 business days from the day you submitted your application
- If you are getting your payment by cheque, expect to get the cheque within 10 business days from the day you submitted your application.

Apply again every 4 weeks

You will need to apply and confirm your eligibility for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit every 4 weeks (to a maximum of 16 weeks) if your situation continues.