

Income Support and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Income Support and the CERB

If you receive Income Support benefits and you or the person you live with has lost employment due to COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive the \$500 per week CERB. Under the Income Support program, a portion of the CERB payment is exempt, which means a portion of the CERB payment is not counted and will not affect your monthly benefits.

The amount of the CERB payment that is exempt depends on your household composition and other income. The remaining amount will be deducted from your benefits. You are encouraged to talk to your caseworker or call the Alberta Supports Contact Centre at 1-877-644-9992 to find out how the CERB could affect your monthly Income Support benefits.

The CERB and your benefits

Receiving the CERB payment could reduce your Income Support financial benefit to \$0. If you become ineligible for Income Support benefits because you are receiving the CERB, you may remain eligible for the Income Support program when the CERB ends, as long as you continue to meet other eligibility criteria. You can also retain your health benefits while you receive the CERB.

Income Support Exemptions (expected to work and barriers to full employment) for the CERB and employment income*

Income Support exemptions	100% exempt	25% exempt
One adult household	Up to \$230	Remaining amount (25% exempt)
Two adult household	Up to \$115 per adult	Remaining amount (25% exempt)
Amount earned by each dependent not in school, defined by the <i>Education Act</i>	Up to \$350 per dependent	Remaining amount (25% exempt)
Amount earned by each dependent in school	Fully exempt.	

**Income from the CERB is added to employment income and self-employment income for each recipient and the exemption is applied to this total. Exemptions are not applied at the time of application. Contact Alberta Supports to discuss your financial eligibility.*