

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

AISH program and the CERB

If you receive AISH 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 AISH 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 AISH benefit amount.

Monthly benefits

The monthly AISH benefit amount you get depends on any other income you, your spouse or partner may have. To determine benefit amounts, it is best to contact your caseworker or the Alberta Supports Contact Centre at 1-877-644-9992 to discuss the details of your situation. Receiving the CERB will not affect your eligibility for AISH or your health benefits.

CERB exemption for single AISH clients

If you are a single AISH client with no dependent children, the CERB payment is combined with any passive business income you may have been receiving. This income includes things like interest payments, capital gains, income from trusts and rental income. This total receives the following exemption:

- the first \$300 is fully exempt; and
- the remaining amount is 25 per cent exempt.

This means \$300, plus an additional 25 per cent of the CERB payment and other passive business income you receive, will not affect your monthly AISH benefits. However, any additional CERB or passive business income would be subtracted from your monthly AISH benefits.

CERB exemption for AISH clients with families

If you are an AISH client and you have a child under 18 and/or a partner who lives with you, you receive the family exemption. This means the CERB and any passive income you receive will be added to your partner's passive business income and their pension income (if they have any). Passive business income includes things like interest payments, capital gains, income from trusts and rental income. This total receives the following exemption:

- the first \$875 is fully exempt; and
- the remaining amount is 25 per cent exempt.

This means \$875, plus an additional 25 per cent of the total CERB payment and other passive business or your partner's pension income, will not affect your monthly AISH benefit amount. The remainder, however, would be subtracted from your monthly AISH benefits.

Sample CERB and AISH calculations

The table below provides sample calculations based on households with no additional income from any other non-AISH and non-CERB sources.

Client category	Fully Exempt CERB portion*	Remaining CERB amount that is exempt**	AISH benefit (maximum core)	Total monthly income (AISH benefits plus CERB)
Single client (no dependent children)	\$300	\$425 (25% exempt)	\$1,685	\$2,410
Client with one dependent child (no cohabiting partner)	\$875	\$281 (25% exempt)	\$1,885	\$3,041
Client with cohabiting partner (no dependent children)	\$875	\$281 (25% exempt)	\$1,685	\$2,841
Client with cohabiting partner and two dependent children	\$875	\$281 (25% exempt)	\$1,985	\$3,141
Two cohabiting AISH clients (no dependent children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client in receipt of the CERB receives the same exemption as a single client. • If both clients are in receipt of the CERB, they each receive the same exemption as a single client. 			
Two cohabiting AISH clients (with dependent children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If one client receives the CERB, that client receives the family exemption. • If both clients receive the CERB, one client receives the family exemption and the other client receives the same exemption as a single client. 			

* AISH applicants are not eligible for this exemption. Cohabiting partners of AISH applicants receive a partial exemption.

** Assumes there are no other sources of passive business income or cohabiting partner pension income.