

Who can Apply for Ontario Works (OW)?

If you are not eligible for the Federal CERB and E.I. benefits you may still be eligible for OW benefits.

OW regular benefits-to be eligible you must:

- Live in Ontario
- Need money right away to pay for food and shelter
- Be willing to take part in activities that will help you find a job (although there may be exemptions of this during COVID-19)
- Meet the financial eligibility criteria (low income and low assets)

You do NOT need to be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident to be eligible for OW.

You can apply if you are **not**:

- A tourist/ visitor
- On a removal order or
- Able to leave Canada for reasons beyond your control

This means that if you are in Ontario with a temporary visa or without immigration status and you are not able to leave Canada due to the current COVID-19 situation, you should be eligible to apply for Ontario Works. **If your application is denied you should appeal and a legal clinic can assist you.**

You can start the application process either online or by phone.

Online application:

https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/apply_online.aspx

With the community quarantine still in place, we encourage everyone to:

Stay home and #StopTheSpread.

Ontario Works Emergency Assistance

Ontario Works Emergency Assistance enables the immediate provision of financial assistance to an applicant in a crisis or emergency situation. **If you are not currently on social assistance and do not want to apply for social assistance, you can still apply for COVID-19 emergency assistance.**

To be eligible for the emergency benefit, you must:

- **not qualify** for federal assistance (EI or CERB)
- **not** already receiving OW, ODSP or any federal assistance
- **not** a tourist or a visitor; and
- face an emergency situation where you cannot meet basic needs or shelter expenses

Ontario will make Emergency Assistance available for up to 48 days at a time (up from 16) and allow families and individuals affected by COVID-19 to apply for Emergency Assistance more often than once every six months. Families and individuals affected by COVID-19 can apply more often.

- The amount you receive is discretionary. There is no clear information about how much you will receive.
- Assistance will be paid once every 16 days.

You can start the application process either online or by phone.

Online application:

https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/apply_online.aspx

You can reach SALCO with social assistance inquiries at:
(416)-487-6371

or

Find your local legal clinic at www.legalaid.on.ca/legal-clinics/ or call: 416 979 1446

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