



Provincial Government Financial Supports

Updated: April 3, 2020

Housing

[Temporary Rent Supplement](#)

Eligible tenants can be paid up to \$500 per household. The benefit is paid directly to your landlord. The program is currently slated to last for 3 months, beginning in April. BC Housing is working on developing the application process and more information will be available on BC Housing's website in early April.

[Freezing annual rent increases](#)

Landlords cannot apply the annual CPI residential rent increase to residential tenancies. This applies to tenants who have a tenancy agreement under the Residential Tenancy Act. It does not apply to households in rent geared-to-income units.

Employment

[Emergency Benefit for Workers](#)

The B.C. emergency benefit for workers will provide a one-time, tax-free, \$1,000 payment for B.C. residents who are unable to work due to COVID-19. More comprehensive information is to come

BC Hydro

BC Hydro is halting all service disconnections for non-payment of bills and reducing electricity rates by 1%.

[Covid 19 Relief Fund](#)

Applies 3 month credit to your BC Hydro account for eligible customers. The average credit will be \$477. Relief fund applications will be accepted between April 6th - June 30th. Applications will be made available at a later date.

[Covid 19 Customer Assistance Program](#)

This includes bill deferral and payment plans. Call 1-800- BC-HYDRO for more information.

[Customer Crisis Fund](#)

Grants of up to \$600 off your energy bill. You can apply here <https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/customer-crisis-fund.html>

Income Supplements

Filing due date for income tax returns are deferred to June 1. Payments owed are deferred until after August 31.

Income Assistance

Existing income assistance program continues to be available for those in need with no other resources. Apply online here <https://myselfserve.gov.bc.ca/> or by phone 1-866-866-0800.

Youth in Care

Youth in care will not age out of services during this pandemic. Agreements with young adults (AYA) program payments will continue despite school closures and training interruptions.

Other Financial Supports for Individuals

Hospital Parking

Parking is free of charge at all health authority owned and operated health care sites.

ICBC

Monthly payment deferral for up to 90 days with no penalty.

BC Student Loans

6 months interest free moratorium on repayment starting April. Repayment will be paused automatically.

BC Transit and Translink

Fare free boarding on all busses. Enter through the rear of the bus unless accessible loading is required.

All BC Bus Pass program users receiving IA and DA will receive a \$52 transportation supplement for the duration of the BC transit and translink bus fare suspensions.

Business Support

\$1.5 billion in provincial funding will support economic stimulus once the pandemic has passed.

Worksafe BC

Payment deadlines are postponed without penalty until June 30, except for employers that report on an annual basis (which do not need to report their 2020 payroll or pay their 2020 premiums until March 2021). More information found here <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/news-events/announcements/2020/March/covid-19-situation-your-reporting-payment-deadline>

BC Business Taxes

Payments for Employer Health Tax (EHT), Provincial Sales Tax (PST), municipal and regional district tax, tobacco tax, motor fuel tax, and carbon tax are deferred until after September 30. Scheduled April 1 increases to provincial carbon tax and PST are deferred.

Funding Boosts to Charities for Program Delivery

Food Banks BC

Funding boost to Food Banks BC, who will distribute the money among food banks province wide.

ViaSport

Funding boost, through Via Sport, to provincial, disability, and multi-sport organizations.

Arts and Culture Sector

\$3 million Arts and Culture Resilience Supplement to give operating and eligible project clients a supplement of up to \$15,000. Clients will receive a 50% advance on 2020-2021 funding. Learn more here <https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/>.

Social Services

For a complete list of all social service help visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/social-development-poverty-reduction>

Child Care

Emergency funding is available for childcare providers that stay open and those that have closed. Learn more here <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information>

Income Supplement

If you are **not** receiving federal EI or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and are on; Income Assistance (IA), Disability Assistance (DA), Comforts Allowance, or the BC Seniors Supplement then you will automatically receive a \$300 supplement on your cheques issued in April, May, and June. No action is required.

If you **are** receiving federal EI or the CERB and receiving IA or DA you will not be eligible for the \$300 supplement.