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Canada Emergency Response Benefit

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

What is the Canada Emergency Response Benefit

If you stopped working because of COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) may provide you with temporary income support.

The CERB provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

How to apply

We will start accepting applications on April 6.

Prior to April 6, individuals who are without work and are eligible for EI can continue to [apply for Employment Insurance](#).

Important! If you are not eligible for Employment Insurance, find out how you can get ready to apply for the CERB through the [Canada Revenue Agency](#).

Whether you apply online or by phone, the CRA wants to provide the best service possible to everyone. To help manage this, the CRA has 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	Your best day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	April 6
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	April 7
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	April 8
October, November, or December	Thursdays	April 9
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	

Eligibility

The benefit will be available to workers:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- Who have stopped working because of COVID-19 and have not voluntarily quit their job;
- 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. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment income.

The Benefit is only available to individuals who stopped work as a result of reasons related to COVID-19. If you are looking for a job but haven't stopped working because of COVID-19, you are not eligible for the Benefit.

Questions and answers

▶ What is the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▼ How do I know whether to apply for EI benefits or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

If you have stopped working because of COVID-19, you should apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, whether or not you are eligible for Employment Insurance. The Benefit is available for the period from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020.

Starting April 6, 2020, there will be a single portal to assist you with the application process.

Until then, Canadians who are eligible for Employment Insurance and who have lost their job can continue to [apply for Employment Insurance](#).

If you became eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits on March 15, 2020 or later, your claim will be automatically processed through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

In addition, for other EI benefits, including maternity, parental, caregiving, fishing and worksharing, you should also continue to apply.

- [Apply for other EI benefits](#)

▶ When can I apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ What are the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ Under what circumstances can I apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ Do I need a medical certificate to receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit if I am in quarantine or sick from COVID-19?

▶ Do I need to be laid off to access the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ Where can I apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ How much could I receive through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ Can I have other income while receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ Can you receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit if you are not a citizen or permanent resident?

▶ Does the minimum income of \$5,000 have to be earned in Canada?

▶ When and how will I receive my Canada Emergency Response Benefit payment? Is there a waiting period?

▶ Do I need to provide any documentation when I apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ If I am already receiving Employment Insurance regular benefits, should I reapply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ I have applied for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits, but my claim hasn't been processed yet, do I need to reapply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

▶ If I would be entitled to more than the \$500 per week under Employment Insurance, will I get the higher amount?

▶ If I would have been entitled to less than the \$500 per week under Employment Insurance, will I get the \$500?

▶ What if I stopped working before March 15th but only applied for Employment Insurance after March 15th – which benefit will I receive?

▶ If I am on special benefits such as maternity/parental am I eligible to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

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