

Emergency financial supports announced today: What does it mean for me?

Note: This information was put together for the community by the East Scarborough Storefront on March 18, 2020. It reflects the most up to date information we had at this time.

Today, the federal government announced an emergency financial aid plan to address the financial impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians ([see their website for full details](#)). Here's what you and your family need to know:

Financial aid that you may receive directly:

- Low and modest-income individuals and families will receive a **one-time special payment in early May through the Goods and Services Tax credit (GST cheque)**: average of \$400 for single individuals and \$600 for couples.
- Families will receive a **one-time top-up to their Canada Child Benefit payments**, receiving an extra \$300 per child with their May payment

Financial aid that you may apply for:

- Service Canada has set up a **dedicated phone line for inquiries regarding Employment Insurance (EI) claims related to COVID-19: 1-833-381-2725**
- There is a **new Emergency Care Benefit of up to \$450 per week for up to 15 weeks**, starting in early April. This will provide income support to workers who have to stay home to care for a sick family member and who don't have access to paid sick leave. **You can access this even if you don't qualify for Employment Insurance (EI)**, and no medical documentation is required. Starting in April, you can apply online (via [My CRA Account](#) or [My Service Canada Account](#)) or by a toll-free number, and no medical documentation is required.
- There is a new **Emergency Support Benefit for workers who lose their job who do not qualify for EI**. This will provide you with 14 weeks of support at a level similar to the EI program (more details to be announced).

Other key ways financial support is being offered:

- There is now a **six-month, interest-free grace period on Canada Student Loans payments**.
- The tax filing deadline is extended to June 1st: however, the CRA encourages individuals who expect to receive benefits under the GST credit or the Canada Child Benefit not to delay doing their taxes, to ensure their 2020-2021 benefits are determined and issued quickly.
- Taxpayers are allowed to postpone any tax payments until after August 31st