



Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

SUMMARY

The [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#) is a federal benefit that provides temporary income support of \$500 per week for up to 16 weeks for eligible workers who have stopped working due to COVID-19.

ELIGIBILITY

The CERB is available to wage earners, contract workers, and self-employed Canadians who meet the following criteria:

- they have stopped working and do not have access to supplementary income from occasional or temporary work, income support like Employment Insurance, or sickness benefits
- they have exhausted their Employment Insurance regular benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020
- they are employed but are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19
- they are employed but must stay home without pay to care for children due to closure of schools and daycares
- they are still employed but have been asked not to come into work and are without pay
- they were laid off (did not quit their job) and are without pay
- they are seasonal workers who cannot find employment due to COVID-19
- they have experienced a significant reduction in income but can still earn up to \$1000 in employment/ self-employment during a four-week period

Applicants **MUST**:

- be a resident of Canada
- be at least 15 years of age or older
- have earned at least \$5,000 in 2019 **or** in the 12 months immediately preceding the date they submit their application (income can come from regular employment, self-employment, maternity leave benefits, or parental leave benefits)
- have been out of work for at least 14 consecutive days within the last four weeks preceding the date they first apply for the CERB, **or** have not earned more than \$1,000 in employment/self-employment income for 14 or more consecutive days within the four-week benefit period of the initial claim

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Eligible Canadians may receive up to \$2,000 per month for up to 16 weeks.

There are a total of seven four-week periods starting on March 15, 2020, and ending September 26, 2020. If you are not eligible for CERB payments in one four-week period, you may still be eligible for the benefit in the next four-week period. If you applied and were rejected because you didn't meet the requirements, you must reapply for the benefit when you become eligible.

Important Notice: The CERB is for Canadians who have **lost all of their income**, and those with **reduced income of up to \$1,000** per four-week period.

- When submitting the first claim, the applicant cannot have earned more than \$1,000 in employment/self-employment income for 14 or more consecutive days within the four-week benefit period of the claim.
- When submitting subsequent claims, the applicant cannot have earned more than \$1,000 in employment/self-employment income for the entire four-week benefit period of the new claim

FOUR-WEEK ELIGIBILITY CYCLES

Cycle	Four-week Period Dates
1	March 15 to April 11, 2020
2	April 12 to May 9, 2020
3	May 10 to June 6, 2020
4	June 7 to July 4, 2020
5	July 5 to August 1, 2020
6	August 2 to August 29, 2020
7	August 30 to September 26, 2020

WHEN TO APPLY

The Canadian government has set up the following schedule for applicants to complete their CERB application based on their birth month:

If you were born in the month of:	Apply for CERB on
January, February, or March	Mondays
April, May, or June	Tuesdays
July, August, or September	Wednesdays
October, November, or December	Thursdays
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for the CERB funding by phone or online:

- **Phone:** Call 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041 and use the automated service. Have your postal code and social insurance number ready to verify your identify.
- **Online** with your [My CRA Account](#).

Both of the online and telephone services are available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. Both services are closed from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. (Eastern time) for maintenance.