

COVID-19 Crisis Supplement Q & A Date: April 15 2020

Question	Answer
<p>Who is eligible for the temporary COVID-19 crisis supplement and how much is it?</p>	<p>\$300 per each adult IA or PWD recipient (Note It is per adult recipient, not per client file)</p> <p>For everyone on Income Assistance or Disability Assistance who is not eligible for the emergency federal support programs, including the CERB, ISC will be providing an automatic \$300 monthly COVID-19 crisis supplement for the next three months; May –July 2020.</p> <p>*A policy revision has extended the eligibility for the Crisis Supplement to all adult IA or PWD recipients including new applicants.</p>
<p>Exemptions, and Hardship Question</p>	
<p>What income is exempt for recipients?</p>	<p>People currently receiving IA or DA will temporarily not see any reductions to their assistance payments because of federal Employment Insurance benefits, including the new \$2,000 CERB, for the next three months.</p>
<p>What income is not exempt?</p>	<p>Federal Insurance Benefits and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is not exempt for new applicants or hardship recipients.</p> <p>New IA or PWD clients will receive the \$300 COVID-19 Crisis Supplement if they are <u>not</u> receiving federal EI or the CERB.</p> <p>If they are applying for assistance and meet all eligibility criteria, they will be eligible to receive the temporary \$300 COVID-19 Crisis Supplement, if they are <u>not</u> awaiting or <u>not</u> receiving federal EI or CERB.</p>
<p>Why are these funds exempt?</p>	<p>These funds are temporarily exempt as emergency measures to ensure that B.C.'s most vulnerable, including people on income or disability assistance do not encounter additional barriers during the COVID-19 crisis. If we did not make this temporary exemption these recipients would experience a reduction in their income during this difficult time.</p>

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<p>Why are the federal benefits not exempt for new applicants?</p>	<p>The exemptions are to ensure our current IA/DA clients are not disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and do not face additional barriers. New applicants who are waiting for their federal payments to begin may be eligible for repayable Hardship Assistance.</p>
<p>When do the exemptions come into effect?</p>	<p>The exemptions will apply in April for May benefit month.</p>
<p>How long are the temporary exemptions in effect?</p>	<p>These payments will be fully exempted for the next three months for people receiving Income Assistance and Disability Assistance in BC.</p>
<p>Will the federal benefits count against PWD earnings exemption.</p>	<p>No federal benefits will not affect a PWD's earnings exemption.</p>
<p>An applicant has applied for CERB or EI, are they eligible for assistance?</p>	<p>Yes, they may apply and be assessed for repayable hardship assistance. Once a decision on their application for CERB or EI has been determined, their federal payments are not exempt income. Follow current process for setting up repayment of Hardship.</p>
<p>Is the Hardship Assistance for awaiting EI and CERB cases Repayable?</p>	<p>Yes, recipients on Awaiting EI, must complete an Assignment of Benefits. Recipients awaiting CERB must complete a Repayment Agreement.</p>
<p>Do clients have to report this income?</p>	<p>Yes, on the monthly report EI is reported under Employment Income and CERB is reported under Other Income.</p> <p>If a client reports their EI or CERB income incorrectly, do not send the stub back. We are recommending where they should be declaring income but it would not be considered an incomplete stub if declared in a different section.</p>
<p>Is this under Special Need?</p>	<p>Yes, it was the only way ISC could flow the funding. Special needs / Crisis supplement.</p>
<p>What if bands don't want to follow the \$300 model?</p>	<p>The funding allocation model is a policy change. There is no flexibility.</p> <p>The allocation is based upon the most recently reported caseload @ \$300 per adult in receipt of IA or PWD. \$300 per adult recipient to be automatically added to cheques for May, June and July. If there has been an increase in the caseload that</p>

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	determined the allocation it will be funded.
\$300 per adult – does it mean “every” adult or “every file”? Example childless couple = \$300 or \$600?	<p>Every IA or PWD adult who is a recipient.</p> <p>le: Single parent. A \$300 crisis supplement is added only to the Adult recipients regular cheque for May to July.</p> <p>Married couple, no children. A \$300 crisis supplement is added to both Adult recipients regular cheque for May to July.</p>
Are COPH or children eligible for the Crisis Supplement?	No, the Crisis Supplement is intended for current adult IA or PWD recipients only. COPH and children are covered under the Child Tax Benefit increases administered by CRA. There are increases to the child tax benefit from CRA; hence the exclusion of children from the crisis supplement.
Does the band have flexibility to who gets the \$?	<p>No, the IA Crisis Supplement must be automatically added to each adult IA or PWD recipient’s cheque for May June and July.</p> <p>To mirror the provincial announcement, ISC is providing the \$300-monthly COVID-19 crisis supplement for the next three months.</p>
What about Non IA/PWD Band Members?	<p>Your Band Members that are NOT on IA are encouraged to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.</p> <p>Applications were open on Monday, April 6, 2020.</p> <p>Payments have already been received as promptly as 2 business days. for EI and CERB for some clients that filed already.</p>
<p>Funding Allocation</p> <p>For 2020-21, recipients received:</p>	
Indigenous Community Support Fund (Emergency Management)	Terms and conditions were amendment to allow for additional eligibility of activities

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Special Needs Initial Budget	<p>BSDW's to issue funding to clients based on policy – Section 9.2</p> <p>Funding formula: Recipients are funded using a geographic, 'weighted' per capita formula. The weighted population is the First Nation's Total Registered Population (Indian Registry population Codes 1 through 6 as of December 31 of the previous fiscal year) multiplied by the First Nation's Remoteness Index Factor. For 2020-21, the weighted per capita amount is \$21.30.</p>
Crisis Supplement (Special Needs)	<p>Provincial comparability of \$300 per adult for IA/PWD clients for 3 months (May to July).</p> <p>BSDW's should automatically include in monthly IA cheque issue starting at the end of April.</p> <p>Funding formula: based on 2018-19 average monthly 'Adult' caseload from the Income Assistance DCI. The reported caseload was multiplied by 20% to address the potential volume caseload increase.</p>
How is ISC determine the budget for the crisis supplement?	<p>The supplement was calculated using the 2018-19 average monthly 'Adult' caseload from the Income Assistance DCI. The client caseload is weighted by multiplying it by the estimated caseload increase of 20%. The 'weighted' adult caseload is then multiplied by a rate of \$300 per month for 3 months.</p>
When will the crisis supplement funds be received?	<p>ISC is currently working on advancing funds for the crisis supplement by the end of April. For communities with a surplus in your Special Needs budget, you may use this budget to cash manage this supplement.</p>
How will this crisis supplement funding be flowed to recipients?	<p>The province has classified the \$300 as a crisis supplement, ISC will be using the Special needs / Crisis supplement budget to flow the funding.</p>
What if the funded amount for the crisis supplement is not sufficient for the current caseload?	<p>If there is an unfunded increase in caseload it will be funded by ISC. Please complete the below table (1) and email the request to the BSDW email inbox.</p> <p>aadnc.tsdb soutien-bsdwsupport-bc.aandc@canada.ca</p>

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(1)

Number	Name	Crisis Supplement Allocation	Last Caseload Reported		Current Caseload	
			IA	PWD	IA	PWD

*By submitting the above you declare that you have read the crisis supplement questions and answers (Q&A) and that the Adult Caseload provided are according to crisis supplement Q&A