

# OW & ODSP Rates and OCB amounts as of October 2015

The 2015 Ontario Budget increased Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates. The increases start on the October 30 cheque for both OW and ODSP. More information about these increases and other benefit increases is on page 2.

The chart below shows the current (as of October 1) and new (as of October 30) Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts for different family types. It also shows Ontario Child Benefit amounts, because the OCB is an important part of the total amount of income that people on OW and ODSP who have children get each month. All the children in these examples are under age 18.

| Family Type                 | Current |             |                          |       | After Oct / Nov 2015 |             |                          |       |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------|---------|
|                             | OW      | Basic Needs | Max <sup>1</sup> Shelter | OCB   | Total                | Basic Needs | Max <sup>1</sup> Shelter | OCB   | Total   |
| Single                      |         | \$280       | \$376                    | \$0   | \$656                | \$305       | \$376                    | \$0   | \$681   |
| Single Parent<br>1 child    |         | \$339       | \$602                    | \$111 | \$1,052              | \$342       | \$609                    | \$111 | \$1,062 |
| Single Parent<br>2 children |         | \$339       | \$655                    | \$222 | \$1,216              | \$342       | \$662                    | \$222 | \$1,226 |
| Couple                      |         | \$463       | \$602                    | \$0   | \$1,065              | \$468       | \$609                    | \$0   | \$1,077 |
| Couple<br>1 child           |         | \$463       | \$655                    | \$111 | \$1,229              | \$468       | \$662                    | \$111 | \$1,241 |
| Couple<br>2 children        |         | \$463       | \$710                    | \$222 | \$1,395              | \$468       | \$718                    | \$222 | \$1,408 |
| <b>ODSP</b>                 |         |             |                          |       |                      |             |                          |       |         |
| Single                      |         | \$619       | \$479                    | \$0   | \$1,098              | \$631       | \$479                    | \$0   | \$1,110 |
| Single Parent<br>1 child    |         | \$762       | \$753                    | \$111 | \$1,626              | \$774       | \$753                    | \$111 | \$1,638 |
| Single Parent<br>2 children |         | \$762       | \$816                    | \$222 | \$1,800              | \$774       | \$816                    | \$222 | \$1,812 |
| Couple <sup>2</sup>         |         | \$905       | \$753                    | \$0   | \$1,658              | \$917       | \$753                    | \$0   | \$1,670 |
| Couple<br>1 child           |         | \$905       | \$816                    | \$111 | \$1,832              | \$917       | \$816                    | \$111 | \$1,844 |
| Couple<br>2 children        |         | \$905       | \$886                    | \$222 | \$2,013              | \$917       | \$886                    | \$222 | \$2,025 |

1. Shelter amounts are maximums. If actual shelter costs are lower, the lower amount will be paid.
2. All the amounts for couples on ODSP in this chart are for couples where one person has a disability. See page 2 for information about amounts for couples where both have a disability.

There is no longer a difference in the amounts of money that people on ODSP with children under 18 get depending on the age of their children. This is because of changes made to certain Basic Needs rates when the Ontario Child Benefit recently increased. In July 2015, the provincial government increased the OCB by \$2 per month per child, to the current amount of \$111 per month per child. At the same time, they removed \$1 per month from the Basic Needs amounts given to families on ODSP who have children aged 13-17.

Single people receiving Ontario Works, whose rates are the lowest, will get an additional \$25 per month. This is a 3.8% increase. The \$25 will be added onto the Basic Needs side of their cheque. As a result, all single people on OW will get the full benefit of the \$25 even if their actual housing charges are lower than the Maximum Shelter amount.

Others on OW – single people with children, couples, and couples with children – will get a 1% increase. The increase is added to both the Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts.

Single people with disabilities on ODSP will get an additional \$12 per month, which is slightly more than a 1% increase. However, like last year and the year before, people with families will not receive an increase in amounts intended to support their family members. This means that everyone on ODSP will get the same \$12 increase, regardless of the size or make-up of their family. The \$12 will be added to the Basic Needs side of their cheque.

Other increases include:

- The Remote Communities Allowance for people in communities without year-round road access north of the 50<sup>th</sup> parallel will increase by 1%. (Note: this used to be called the Northern Allowance.)
- The Board and Lodge rate will increase by \$25 per month for single OW recipients, 1% for families on OW, and \$8 per month for people with a disability on ODSP.
- A 1% increase will also apply to: the Advanced Age Allowance; the Personal Needs Allowance; the Special Boarder Allowance; the Guide Dog Benefit; Temporary Care Assistance; rates for dependents with dependents, financially independent adults living with parents, sponsored immigrants, residents of interval and transition homes, and residents of long-term care homes, intensive support residences, and supported group living residences.
- The maximum Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities will increase from \$465 to \$470 per month.

There are no increases to the Special Diet Allowance or Pregnancy / Breast-feeding Nutritional Allowance.

The ODSP couples rates on page 1 do not apply when both people in the couple have a disability. For these couples, a special “double disabled” rate applies, which is the maximum amount that couples in this circumstance can be eligible for. The “double disabled” rate will increase from \$1,842 to \$1,866 per month. If couples in this situation are eligible for other benefits, like the Special Diet Allowance or the Remote Communities Allowance, those amounts are added on top of the double disabled rate. If couples in this situation have a dependent child or children, the amounts and benefits that the child or children are eligible for are also added on top. If you are in this situation, talk to your caseworker to find out what benefit amounts you are eligible for.