



INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE
Centre d'action pour la sécurité du revenu

OW & ODSP Rates and the Ontario Child Benefit

Current to October 2020

After 14 years of annual increases to social assistance rates, the provincial government did not include any increases to the Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates in the 2019 budget. However, only families with children will see any change in their monthly benefit amounts, due to a very small increase linked to the rate of inflation, of less than \$5 per month. With the current rate of inflation, and even including the small increase to the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB), social assistance recipients can buy less this year than they could last year.

The table below shows current Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts for different family types – note that these amounts have not changed since fall 2018. It also shows the previous and current maximum Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) amounts which were increased to account for inflation in July 2020.

Please read the notes below for more information.

Family Type	Previous				New as of July 2020				
	OW	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total
Single		\$343	\$390	\$0	\$733	\$343	\$390	\$0	\$733
Single Parent - 1 child		\$360	\$642	\$119.5	\$1,121.5	\$360	\$642	\$121.75	\$1,123.75
Single Parent - 2 children		\$360	\$697	\$239	\$1,296	\$360	\$697	\$243.5	\$1,300.5
Couple		\$494	\$642	\$0	\$1,136	\$494	\$642	\$0	\$1,136
Couple - 1 child		\$494	\$697	\$119.5	\$1,310.5	\$494	\$697	\$121.75	\$1,312.75
Couple - 2 children		\$494	\$756	\$239	\$1,489	\$494	\$756	\$243.5	\$1,493.5
ODSP									
Single		\$672	\$497	\$0	\$1,169	\$672	\$497	\$0	\$1,169
Single Parent - 1 child		\$815	\$781	\$119.5	\$1,715.5	\$815	\$781	\$121.75	\$1,717.75
Single Parent - 2 children		\$815	\$846	\$239	\$1,900	\$815	\$846	\$243.5	\$1,904.5
Couple		\$969	\$781	\$0	\$1,750	\$969	\$781	\$0	\$1,750
Couple - 1 child		\$969	\$846	\$119.5	\$1,934.5	\$969	\$846	\$121.75	\$1,936.75
Couple - 2 children		\$969	\$918	\$239	\$2,126	\$969	\$918	\$243.5	\$2,130.5

NOTES:

- The amounts shown in the chart above are maximums and may not apply in every situation. For example, people who pay less for their housing than the maximum shelter amount will only receive the amount they pay. People on OW or ODSP should ask their caseworker about the particular amounts that apply in their case.
- The OCB is a tax-free amount paid to moderate-low-income families to provide for their children. Typically, these payments are delivered on the same cheque as the Canada Child Benefit (CCB). The OCB provides a maximum of \$1,461 per child per year. This benefit is paid out from July of the current year, to June of the following year for each child under the age of 18.
- The actual amount of Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) that a family gets may be lower than the maximum. The amount will depend on the net income of the family. Note that families with children must file their income tax returns in order to receive the OCB. The actual amount a family receives is dependent on their net income tax return.
- Children in the examples shown in the chart are under age 18.
- The amounts shown for couples on ODSP apply only to situations where one person in the couple has a disability.

Links to information about benefits outside OW / ODSP:

- Ontario Child Benefit: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/financialhelp/ocb/index.aspx>
- Ontario Trillium Benefit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-trillium-benefit>
- Canada Child Benefit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview.html>
- GST/HST credit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/goods-services-tax-harmonized-sales-tax-gst-hst-credit.html>