

OW & ODSP Rates and the Ontario Child Benefit

Current to September 2022

This marks the fourth year the provincial government did not make any increases to Ontario Works (OW) benefit rates. However, the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have increased by 5%. Families with children will also see a slight change in their monthly Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) amounts due to a small increase linked to the rate of inflation of just under \$3 per month or approximately \$35 per year. With the current rate of inflation, and even including the 5% increase to ODSP rates and the small increase to the 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 for OW since fall 2018. It also shows the previous and current maximum OCB amounts that were increased to account for inflation in July 2022, and the previous and current maximum ODSP Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts that increased in September 2022.

For more information, please read the notes below.

Family Type	Previous				New as of July/Sept. 2022			
	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total
OW								
Single	\$343	\$390	\$0	\$733	\$343	\$390	\$0	\$733
Single Parent - 1 child	\$360	\$642	\$122.83	\$1,124.83	\$360	\$642	\$125.75	\$1,127.75
Single Parent - 2 children	\$360	\$697	\$245.66	\$1,302.66	\$360	\$697	\$251.50	\$1,308.50
Couple	\$494	\$642	\$0	\$1,136	\$494	\$642	\$0	\$1,136
Couple - 1 child	\$494	\$697	\$122.83	\$1,313.83	\$494	\$697	\$125.75	\$1,316.75
Couple - 2 children	\$494	\$756	\$245.66	\$1,495.66	\$494	\$756	\$251.50	\$1,501.50
ODSP								
Single	\$672	\$497	\$0	\$1,169	\$706	\$522	\$0	\$1,228
Single Parent - 1 child	\$815	\$781	\$122.83	\$1,718.83	\$849	\$821	\$125.75	\$1,795.75
Single Parent - 2 children	\$815	\$846	\$245.66	\$1,906.66	\$849	\$889	\$251.50	\$1,989.50
Couple	\$969	\$781	\$0	\$1,750	\$1018	\$821	\$0	\$1,839
Couple - 1 child	\$969	\$846	\$122.83	\$1,937.83	\$1018	\$889	\$125.75	\$2,032.75
Couple - 2 children	\$969	\$918	\$245.66	\$2,132.66	\$1018	\$964	\$251.50	\$2,233.50



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 \$1509 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 receives 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.
- Couples on ODSP who both have a disability get a basic needs and shelter rate that is capped at a specified maximum. This “double-disabled” rate will increase from \$1,971 to \$2,070 per month. Other benefits that these couples may be eligible for, like the Special Diet Allowance or the Remote Communities Allowance, are added on top of the “double-disabled” rate. Benefits for dependent children they may have are also added on top.
- People on OW and ODSP may be eligible for other provincial and federal benefits, such as the Ontario Trillium Benefit, the GST/HST credit or the Canada Child Benefit. They may also qualify for other benefits through OW or ODSP. These additional benefits are not shown in the chart because amounts vary depending on each person or household’s situation. See links below for more information.

The 5% increase will also apply to the following rates and benefits:

- services provided by a long-term care home or specialized residence;
- board and lodge rates for singles and families;
- income for sponsored immigrants living with their sponsors;
- the Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) maximum benefit.

The 5% increase will not apply to:

- the special diet allowance;
- the pregnancy/breast-feeding nutritional allowance;
- the Special Boarder Allowance;
- remote and northern communities’ allowance;



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- personal needs payments;
- work-related expenses;
- guide dog benefit;
- employment and training start up assistance.

Links to information about benefits outside OW / ODSP:

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