

*** ONTARIO INCOME SECURITY
& TAX BENEFIT PROGRAMS ***

Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income System

❖ The Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) ensures a guaranteed minimum income for Ontario senior citizens by providing monthly payments to qualifying pensioners.

GAINS Payment

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Monthly payment	\$83.00	\$166.00
Break-even point	\$166.00	\$332.00

GAINS Guarantee

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Monthly payment	\$1,411.14	\$2,307.20
Total income at break-even point	\$1,411.14	\$2,307.20
Spouse's allowance		\$2,224.20

Ontario Child Benefit

❖ The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is a provincial program that helps low-income families provide for their children.

\$1,310/year per child reduced by 8% of family net income over \$20,000 effective July 2014.

Ontario Trillium Benefit

- ❖ The refundable Ontario Sales Tax Credit provides sales tax assistance for people with low to moderate incomes.
- ❖ The refundable Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit provides sales tax on energy and property tax assistance for people with low to moderate incomes.

Ontario Sales Tax Credit (OSTC) - Effective July 2014

Basic Credit	\$281/adult and \$281/child
Family	Reduced by 4% of 2013 AFNI over \$27,031
Single	Reduced by 4% of 2013 AFNI over \$21,625

Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit (OEPTC) - Effective July 2014

	<u>Non-Senior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
Energy Credit	Min. of \$216 and OC	Min. of \$216 and OC
Property Tax Credit	\$54+10% of OC(Max. \$757 or OC)	\$460+10% of OC (Max. \$892 or OC)
Family	Reduced by 2% of 2013 AFNI over \$27,031	Reduced by 2% of 2013 AFNI over \$32,437
Single	Reduced by 2% of 2013 AFNI over \$21,625	Reduced by 2% of 2013 AFNI over \$27,031

Occupancy Cost (OC) = Property tax paid or 20% of rent paid.
AFNI – Adjusted Family Net Income

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For more information regarding Ontario income security and tax benefit programs, visit <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca>

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PURPOSES ONLY

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, PENSION, and TAX CREDIT RATES

October – December 2014

Compiled by



Statistics and Analysis Unit
Policy Research and Analysis Branch
Social Policy Development Division
Ministry of Community & Social Services

*** FEDERAL INCOME SECURITY
& TAX BENEFIT PROGRAMS ***

OAS, GIS, SPA

- ❖ The Old Age Security (OAS) pension is a monthly benefit available, if applied for, to most Canadians 65 years of age or over. Old Age Security residence requirements must also be met.
- ❖ The Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) provides additional money, on top of the OAS pension, to low-income seniors.
- ❖ 60-to-64-year old spouses of OAS recipients (living or deceased) may receive a Spouse's Allowance (SPA).

	<u>OAS monthly benefit</u>	
	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
OAS		(benefit per person)
Maximum supplement	\$764.40	\$506.86
Break-even point	\$1,528.80	\$1,013.72

Federal OAS/GIS/SPA Guarantee

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Monthly benefit	\$1,328.14	\$2,141.20
Total income at break-even point	\$2,092.54	\$3,154.92

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Widowed</u>
Spouse's allowance	\$1,070.60	\$1,198.58

Canada Pension Plan

- ❖ The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) pays a monthly retirement pension to people who have worked and contributed to the CPP. The CPP also acts as an insurance plan, providing disability, survivor and death benefits.

	<u>Maximum monthly benefit</u>
Retirement Pension (at age 65)	\$1,038.33
Disability Pension	\$1,236.35
Flat Rate	\$457.60
Earnings-related	\$778.75
Survivors Pension	
Under 65	\$567.91
Over 65	\$623.00
Children of deceased contributor	\$230.72
Death Benefit (lump sum)	\$2,500.00

Harmonized Sales Tax Credit

- ❖ The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) Credit helps offset the HST paid by individuals and families with low to moderate incomes. The credit is paid every three months.

	<u>Credit Per Year</u>
Each adult	\$268
Each child	\$141
Single supplement	Lesser of \$141 and 2% of net income over \$8,685
Tax-back threshold	\$34,872
Tax-back rate	5%

Working Income Tax Benefit Credit

- ❖ The Working Income Tax Credit (WITB) is a refundable tax credit for low-income individuals with earnings from employment or business. It consists of a basic amount and a disability supplement.
- ❖ The basic WITB provides an amount equal to 25% of each dollar earned over \$3,000 to a maximum credit.
- ❖ The disability supplement provides an amount in addition to the basic amount and is equal to 25% for each dollar earned over \$1,150 to a maximum.

	<u>Max Credit Per Year</u>
Single	\$998
Families	\$1,813
Disability Supplement (each eligible individual excluding dependants)	\$499

Source: HRDC
For more information regarding federal income security and tax benefit programs, visit <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca>

War Veterans Allowance

- ❖ The War Veterans Allowance (WVA) is a form of financial assistance granted in recognition of war service. Qualified persons receive a monthly benefit designed to help them meet basic needs.

	<u>Max monthly benefit</u>
Single/Survivor	\$1,441.98
Single/Survivor Blind	\$1,498.40
Couple	\$2,186.99
Couple (both blind)	\$2,243.20
Additional amount for each dependent child	\$241.01
Orphan	\$722.21

Employment Insurance

- ❖ Employment Insurance (EI) provides temporary financial help to unemployed Canadians while they look for work or upgrade their skills, while they are pregnant or caring for a newborn or adopted child, or while they are sick.
- Benefit**
55% of average insured earnings, with a maximum of \$514/week
- Premium**
1.88% of employment income, with a maximum premium of \$913.68/year

Canada Child Tax Benefit

- ❖ The Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) is a monthly, tax-free payment made to eligible families with children under 18. It includes the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS), a monthly benefit for low-income families with children; the Child Disability Benefit and the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) effective July 1, 2006.

	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Per Year</u>
Basic Child Tax Benefit		
Benefit per child under 18	\$120.50	\$1,446
For each of 3 rd and subsequent Children	Add \$8.42	Add \$101
Tax-back threshold		\$43,953
Tax-back rate: 1 child		2.0%
2+ children		4.0%

National Child Benefit Supplement

	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Per Year</u>
First child	\$186.75	\$2,241
Second child	\$165.17	\$1,982
Each additional child	\$157.17	\$1,886
Tax-back threshold		\$25,584
Tax-back rate: 1 child		12.2%
2 children		23.0%
3+ children		33.3%

Child Disability Benefit

Per child for families receiving the NCBS whose disabled child qualifies for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). Benefits are reduced at the same rates as the 1st child under CCTB benefit i.e. 2% (4% for more than one DTC qualified child).

Universal Child Care Benefit

Provides all low income families with \$100 per month for each child under the age of 6.

Medical Expense Tax Credit

Up to \$1,152 refundable. Phased out by 5% of family net income over \$25,506.

Ontario Works (Social Assistance rates effective October 2014)

- Ontario Works (OW) provides employment and financial assistance to people who are in temporary financial need.
- The Basic Needs Allowance is provided to renters/owners to offset the costs of food, clothing, personal needs, and other non-shelter needs.
- Boarders receive assistance based on the actual shelter costs up to a maximum for board and lodging. In addition, a \$65 "Special Boarder Allowance" is payable to each boarder household.

Basic Needs Allowance

For Renters/Owners:

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	0	0	\$280	\$463
1	0	1	339	463
	1	0	582	609
2	0	2	339	463
	1	1	582	609
	2	0	728	771
3	0	3	339	463
	1	2	582	609
	2	1	728	771
	3	0	891	934

For each additional dependent, add \$163 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older, or \$0 if the dependent is 0-17 years of age.

For Board and Lodging:

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	0	0	\$464	\$646
1	0	1	598	705
	1	0	704	741
2	0	2	665	761
	1	1	771	797
	2	0	816	831
3	0	3	728	817
	1	2	834	853
	2	1	879	887
	3	0	915	921

For each additional dependent of a sole support parent: add \$111 if the dependent is 18 years old or older add \$63 if the dependent is younger than 18 years old Otherwise, for each additional dependent: add \$93 if the dependent is 18 years old or older add \$56 if the dependent is younger than 18 years old

- The Transition Child Benefit is provided to recipients who have primary or shared physical custody of a dependent child (or children) and who are not receiving the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)/National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) or who are receiving less than the maximum OCB.

Ontario Works (maximum/month) \$230/child

- For participants who reside in private market rental accommodation, their own home, or in public housing, the Shelter Allowance is the sum of the actual cost of shelter and the cost of fuel for heat, up to a maximum based on family size.

Shelter Allowance

Family size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance
1	\$376
2	602
3	655
4	710
5	766
6 or more	793

Maximum Monthly Allowance for Selected Case Types

	Renters/Owners			Boarders
	Basic Needs Allowance	Shelter Allowance	Total Allowance	
Single person	\$280	\$376	\$656	\$464
Couple	463	602	1,065	646
Single parent + 1 child under 12	339	602	941	598

- The following items, if required, are paid, on top of the basic needs allowance and the shelter allowance, for all recipients:

Other Employment and Employment Assistance Activities

Benefit (formerly Employment Start-up Benefit)

Maximum \$253

Up Front Child Care

An amount determined by the Director, up to the allowable maximums in any 12 month period.

- Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)**

Recipients who reside in specific types of facilities may be eligible for personal needs allowance of **\$138** a month.

- Earnings Incentives**

The following earnings incentives and supports are provided to help participants make the transition to sustainable employment:

1. Earnings Exemption:

- Flat rate exemption - \$200 per member with employment earnings. (*effective September 2013*)
- Partial exemption - 50% of all employment earnings remaining after mandatory deductions and the flat rate exemption have been deducted. (*effective September 2013*)
- A child care cost expenses exemption:
 - Licensed child care: The child care deduction is equal to the actual cost of licensed child care.
 - Unlicensed child care: The maximum child care deduction is \$600 per month per child.

Earnings are based on net earnings, i.e., gross earnings minus income tax, CPP, EI deductions, union dues and pension contributions. Earnings exemptions are applicable only after a three-month qualifying period.

2. Full-Time Employment Benefit (FTEB):

Up to \$500 FTEB will be provided to help participants who obtain full-time employment (i.e., 30+ hours per week) with the costs of going to work if they have been on assistance for 3 consecutive months or more.

3. Extended Employment Health Benefit:

Current Ontario Works health benefits may be provided to participants who exit Ontario Works to employment for a transitional period of up to 6 months or until the participant receives health benefit from his/her employer with the possibility of extension for an additional 6 months in exceptional circumstances.

The health benefits include items such as prescribed drugs, cost for dental services and vision items etc.

Temporary Care Assistance

- Temporary Care Assistance (TCA) refers to assistance available to an adult who is looking after a child in financial need of whom he or she is not the natural or adoptive parent.

First child \$256
Second + \$208

Ontario Disability Support Program (Social Assistance rates effective September 2014)

- The Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) is designed to meet the unique needs of people with disabilities while recognising that many of them can and do want to work.

Basic Needs Allowance¹

For Renters/Owners:

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 13-17 Years	Dependents 0-12 Years	Recipient (no spouse included in benefit unit)	Recipient and Spouse (one disabled)	Recipient and Spouse (both disabled)
0	0	0	0	\$619	\$905	\$1,235
1	0	0	1	762	905	1,235
	0	1	0	763	906	1,236
	1	0	0	974	1,086	1,416
2	0	0	2	762	905	1,235
	0	1	1	763	906	1,236
	0	2	0	764	907	1,237
	1	0	1	974	1,086	1,416
	1	1	0	975	1,087	1,417
	2	0	0	1,156	1,287	1,617

For each additional dependent, add \$202 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older, or \$1 if the dependent is 13-17 years of age, or \$0 if the dependent is 0-12 years of age.

For Board and Lodging:

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 13-17 Years	Dependents 0-12 Years	Recipient (no spouse included in benefit unit)	Recipient and Spouse (one disabled)	Recipient and Spouse (both disabled)
0	0	0	0	\$776	\$1,167	\$1,547
1	0	0	1	1,009	1,264	1,644
	0	1	0	1,044	1,299	1,679
	1	0	0	1,222	1,385	1,765

For each additional dependent, add \$218 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older, or \$132 if the dependent is 13-17 years of age, or \$97 if the dependent is 0-12 years of age.

- The Transition Child Benefit is provided to recipients who have primary or shared physical custody of a dependent child (or children) and who are not receiving the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)/National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) or who are receiving less than the maximum OCB.

ODSP (maximum/month) \$206/child

Shelter Allowance²

Family size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance
1	\$479
2	753
3	816
4	886
5	956
6 or more	990

Maximum Monthly Allowance for Selected Case Types

	Renters/Owners			Boarders
	Basic Needs Allowance	Shelter Allowance	Total Allowance	
Single person (disabled, aged 65+)	\$619	\$479	1,098	\$776
Couple (one disabled)	905	753	1,658	1,167
Couple (both disabled) ²	1,235	753	1,842	1,547
Disabled + Spouse + 1 child under 12	905	816	1,721	1,264

- The following items, if required, are paid, on top of the basic needs allowance and the shelter allowance, for all recipients:

Employment Start-up Benefit

Maximum in a 12-month period \$500

Up Front Child Care

An amount determined by the Director, up to the allowable maximums in any 12 month period.

- Personal Needs Allowance and Institutional Rates**

Recipients who reside in specific types of institutions may be eligible for personal needs allowance of **\$138** a month. In addition, recipients, who reside in certain institutions as defined under the regulation, are eligible to receive an additional amount.

- Recipients who reside in a long-term care home under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* are eligible to receive **\$956** per month.
- Recipients who reside in an intensive support residence or a supported group living residence under the *Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008* are eligible to receive **\$960** per month.

- Earnings Incentives**

The following earnings incentives and supports are provided to help recipients make the transition to sustainable employment:

1. Earnings Exemption

- Flat rate exemption - \$200 per member with employment Earnings. (*effective September 2013*)
- Partial exemption - 50% of all employment earnings remaining after mandatory deductions and the flat rate exemption have been deducted. (*effective September 2013*)
- A disability related employment expense deduction up to a maximum of \$300.
- A child care expenses deduction of actual costs for licensed child care and up to a maximum of \$600 for unlicensed child care.

2. Work-Related Benefit

\$100 per month for all eligible members of the benefit unit who report earnings.

3. Employment Transition Benefit

\$500 payment, once in any 12-month period to eligible recipients who exit ODSP to employment to assist with the transition to work.

4. Transitional Health Benefits

Drug, dental and vision care benefits to eligible recipients who exit ODSP to employment unless or until the employer provides these benefits.

5. Rapid Reinstatement

Former recipients who are financially eligible for ODSP may be rapidly reinstated and do not have to go through the disability adjudication process if they meet defined criteria.

Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities

- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) provides a benefit to parents caring for children with severe disabilities.

Minimum benefit \$25
Maximum benefit \$465

¹ See additional notes regarding Basic Needs Allowance and Shelter Allowance under the section on Ontario Works.

² All couples where both persons are disabled receive an **additional shelter allowance** amount of \$68, but must not receive more than \$1,842 per month total income support for basic needs and shelter attributable to the couple.