

COVID-19 Crisis Supplement Q & A Date: April 7, 2020

| Question | Answer |
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| Who is eligible for the temporary COVID-19 crisis supplement and how much is it? | <p>\$300 per each current adult IA or PWD recipient</p> <p>For everyone currently 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> |
| Exemptions, and Hardship Question | |
| What income is exempt for recipients? | 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. |
| What income is not exempt? | Federal Insurance Benefits and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is not exempt for applicants or hardship recipients. |
| Why are these funds exempt? | 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. |
| Why are the federal benefits not exempt for new applicants? | 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. |
| When do the exemptions come into effect? | The exemptions will apply in April for May benefit month. |
| How long are the temporary exemptions in effect? | These payments will be fully exempted for the next three months for people receiving Income Assistance and Disability Assistance in BC. |
| Will the federal benefits count against PWD earnings exemption? | No federal benefits will not affect a PWD's earnings exemption. |

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| <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>Funding Allocation</p> | |
| <p>How is ISC determine the budget for the crisis supplement?</p> | <p>The supplement was calculated using the 2018-19 average monthly 'client' caseload from the Income Assistance DCI. The client caseload is weighted by: 1) multiplying the clients by the estimated increase of 74%, and 2) multiplying the result of #1 by the geographic remoteness factor. The 'weighted' client caseload is then multiplied by a rate of \$300.</p> |
| <p>When will the funds be received?</p> | <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> |