Working Parents Benefit

The Working Parents Benefit is a one-time financial support payment for parents who have accessed licensed or unlicensed child care in the past year. Families who qualify will receive $561 per child aged 12 and under.

Eligibility

You may qualify if you meet the following criteria:

1. Your total household income did not exceed $100,000 in the 2020 tax year
   - This is gross income before deductions

2. You are a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident living in Alberta
   - If you live on reserve within the Alberta boundaries, you meet this eligibility requirement.
   - You must be an Alberta resident at the time of your application submission.

3. You are a parent or legal guardian of a child who was born on or after February 29, 2008

4. You arranged and paid for $561 or more for at least 3 months of child care between April 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020
   - The three months can be any three consecutive or non-consecutive months between April and December.
   - As long as you paid at least $561, the number of hours your child attended will not matter.
   - If you hired a full-time nanny or paid a family member ($561 or more), as long as you can provide receipts you are still eligible. This excludes situations where child care was provided by your spouse, common-law partner, your dependent, or your common-law partner’s dependent.

5. The child care you paid for was provided by (receipts, bills or invoices required) someone other than the child’s father or mother, your spouse or common law partner, or someone who is dependent on you or dependent on your spouse or common law partner. This may include:
   - a licensed daycare
   - a licensed out-of-school care
   - a licensed group family child care
   - an approved family day home
   - a private day home
   - a nanny
   - any other child care provider, licensed or unlicensed

6. You required the child care above because you were working or attending school
   - you are eligible only if you paid for child care while you were working or attending school
   - If you are selected for the audit, you will be required to provide proof of employment, self-employment or that you were enrolled in an educational program.
   - Both parents are not required to have been working. As long as one parent was working or in school, and you meet the other criteria above, you will be eligible.
Calculating your income

To be eligible, your total household income for the 2020 tax year (before deductions) cannot have exceeded $100,000 in the 2020 tax year – there will be no exceptions. To calculate your gross income, you will use the amount showing on Line 15000 in your 2020 Notice of Assessment. Otherwise, you can calculate your gross income by adding up employment income earned (T4 slips), employment insurance payments (T4A slip), provincial and federal COVID-19 related payments received, and any taxable income received through other sources. Gross income includes any of the following:

- Employment income earned
- Employment insurance payments
- Provincial and federal COVID-19 related payments
- Income from rental properties (minus expenses), dividends from corporations, investment income, limited partner income
- Social assistance payments
- Taxable child support payments – not all are taxable, it is decided on the court order.
- WCB
- Spousal payments
- Self-employment – audited financial statement
- Other income - Apprenticeship Incentive Grant, lump sum payments from pensions or deferred profit sharing plans, severance allowance, death benefits other than CPP/QPP, training allowances, RRSP withdrawals, payments from a trust, payments made from an RESP.

Shared Custody

Only one parent or legal guardian can apply for each eligible child. Where parents share custody, child's parents or legal guardians must decide who will apply. Applications are accepted and processed on a first-come first-served basis; duplicate applications for the same child will be denied. Alberta Children’s Services will not become involved in disputes between parents/guardians regarding distribution of the funds.

If the other parent/guardian has already applied and was approved for the benefit, your application for the same child will be denied. The parent/guardian receiving the payment is responsible for determining how it is to be distributed in accordance with any court order or agreement between parents/guardians.

Child care subsidy

You are still eligible for the Working Parents Benefit if you received child care subsidy, as long as you paid $561 or more as the parent portion to your child care program, and you meet the eligibility criteria listed above. If the Child Care Subsidy covered the entire child care fee and you did not have to pay anything, you do not qualify for the Working Parents Benefit.

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

You are eligible for the Working Parents Benefit if you received AISH payments and you meet the eligibility criteria listed above.

You will have to report the Working Parent Benefit payment to AISH/Income Support as income. Find more information on how income is treated is available at [alberta.ca/aish.aspx](http://alberta.ca/aish.aspx) and [alberta.ca/income-support.aspx](http://alberta.ca/income-support.aspx).

Application Process

Apply online at [alberta.ca/workingparentsbenefit](http://alberta.ca/workingparentsbenefit) from March 1 to March 5 (depending on your region), until March 31. The application will ask you to sign in to or create a new MyAlberta Digital ID account to apply for this benefit. Applications will be accepted online only.

MyAlberta Digital ID

A MyAlberta Digital ID account is needed to apply for the benefit and a verified account is required to receive the benefit by Interac e-Transfer. The application process will take you through the steps to create/verify a MyAlberta Digital ID account, if you do not already have one. If you are verifying your account for the first time, you will receive an activation code through the mail to complete the verification process. You do not need to wait to receive this code to apply for the benefit – but your Alberta driver’s licence or identification card will need to be current to verify your MyAlberta Digital ID account. Make sure your ID is not expired to avoid application delays.
If you do not have a driver's licence or ID card, you will still be able to apply for the benefit with a basic MyAlberta Digital ID account. However, there will be delay in processing of your application and up to 2 months wait time to receive the payment.

If you experience any technical difficulties or require further assistance in regards to your MyAlberta Digital ID account, please call the MyAlberta Digital ID contact centre at 1-844-643-2789.

Regional application dates
During the first week (March 1 - March 5), we ask that Albertans apply on the date that is assigned to them based on where they live in the province, as noted below. This will help ensure that system access is quick and easy for all applicants.

March 1
- Southern Alberta (excluding: Airdrie, Camrose, Calgary, Edmonton, Leduc, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Wetaskiwin)

March 2
- Northern Alberta (excluding: Cold Lake, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Lloydminster)

March 3

March 4
- Edmonton metro area

March 5
- Calgary metro area

After you apply
After you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation email that your application has been received and will be assessed. It may take 24 hours to receive this confirmation email. Be sure you check your junk mail folder.

It may take up to 30 business days for your application to be processed. As soon as your application has been processed, you will receive an e-mail letting you know if you have been approved for the benefit or whether more information is needed to determine your eligibility.

Decisions to deny applications for the Working Parents Benefit are final. No appeal process is available.

If you made an error in your application
If you have made an error in your application or forgot to add all eligible children before you submitted the application, it is important that you do not accept the e-Transfer before submitting the correct application with all eligible children included. Please cancel the e-Transfer (or enter an invalid answer to your security question to initiate the cancellation), wait 2 business days and submit the new application making sure your information is correct and all eligible children are included.

If the e-Transfer has already been deposited into your bank account, or if you applied with Basic MADI, please contact the Working Benefit Program Support at 1-844-431-1448 for assistance.

Tax considerations
The Working Parents Benefit is not taxable. However, if you or your partner claim child care expense deduction on your tax return, you are required to deduct the Working Parents Benefit you received from the child care expenses you are claiming in your tax return.

Do this by subtracting the Working Parents Benefit received from the Government of Alberta from the total child care expense reported per child in Part A of page 3 on the T778 form. If you have already filed your 2020 income tax return, you must request an adjustment to your income tax return to reduce line 67950 by the total amount of the benefit, and line 67954 by the total amount of the benefit received for child(ren) aged 6 or younger at the end of the year (if applicable.)
Receiving your payment

**Interac e-Transfer**
After your application has been approved, the benefit payment will be distributed to you by email transfer (*Interac* e-Transfer). This is a fast, secure and convenient way to send or receive money using online banking. You can learn more at [www.interac.ca](http://www.interac.ca). To receive funds by *Interac* e-Transfer, you must have access to online banking at any one of the participating financial institutions. To sign up, simply contact your financial institution or visit their online banking website.

To receive your benefit payment, you will receive an e-mail prompting you to deposit the funds into a bank account of your choice. You will need to enter the correct response to a security question you selected in your Working Parents Benefit application. The funds will then be deposited within 24 hours.

If you did not provide the e-Transfer information when you applied, you will receive payment through a pre-paid VISA card.

**Alternative payment method**
If you applied for the benefit with Basic MyAlberta Digital ID account or if you did use verified MyAlberta Digital ID account but chose not to provide the e-Transfer information in your application, you will receive payment through a pre-paid VISA card. You will be able to use the card wherever Visa is accepted for purchases or collect the funds as cash through an ATM.

There are no activation charge or monthly fees. The only fees you could encounter using the pre-paid VISA card are as follows:

- $25 to re-issue the card if it is lost;
- 2.5% if the card is used for a foreign currency purchase
- ATM fees to take funds out as cash

The pre-paid VISA card must be used or cashed by April 30, 2022.