



Ontario Works Department



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ERO QA



Ontario Works

- A simplified, streamlined system that treats our most vulnerable with fairness and dignity, and provides effective integrated employment supports to help them prepare for, find and maintain employment.



As a service provider, Ontario Works offers

- A broad range of employment supports
- Ongoing, progressive employment plans that make sense for individuals
- Quality customer service
- Temporary financial assistance to facilitate work
- Help for participants to improve their future



Eligibility for Ontario Works

- Every person has the right to apply for assistance and to have an application taken.
- Eligibility is established based on the applicant's circumstances including the amount of their assets and income.
- The amount of assistance issued depends on family size and composition, the applicant's monthly accommodation expenses, amount of any income, and the willingness to participate in approved employment activities.
- Participants have the right to appeal



Application Process

- To apply for assistance individuals may contact the County of Simcoe's Integrated Services Unit at (705) 722-3132.
- Provide basic information to screener
- Booked for a "Verification Interview"
- Watch Orientation Video
- Meet with Caseworker



Applicants in an Institution

- May apply up to 10 days prior to their release
- Must have a release date
- Must have an address to go



Rights and Responsibilities

- Applicant/Participant has the Right to:
 - An Interview
 - A Decision
 - A Review

- Applicant/Participant has the following responsibilities:
 - Attend an information session
 - May be required to complete a literacy test
 - Meet with their caseworker at regular intervals
 - Have their financial information updated every 12 months
 - Contact caseworker promptly if message or request for information received



- All members 18 or older are required to participate in employment assistance activities
- Keep receipts and statements to verify income, expenses and assets
- Obtain all available income and report it
- Report changes in circumstances
- Report assets or changes to assets
- Responsible to repay overpayments
- Responsible to follow all the rules of the OW program



Breakdown of Assistance

- Two components to OW
 - Basic Financial Assistance
 - Employment Assistance



Basic Financial Assistance

- Income assistance provided for:
 - Basic needs
 - Shelter

- Also includes:
 - Drug card
 - Various other benefits
 - Employment Start Up Benefits
 - Child Care Expenses
 - Employment Assistance Expenses
 - Dental Care for Dependent Children
 - Vision Care for Dependent Children



- Community Start Up and Maintenance
- Assistance with Medical Supplies/Transportation
- Special Diets
- Advanced Age Items
- Discretionary Benefits:
 - Funeral expenses
 - Canes/crutches
 - Pest control
 - Respiratory devices etc

Basic Needs

- The amount payable for basic needs for applicants or recipients who rent or own their homes is determined in accordance with the following table:

No. of Dependants Other than a Spouse	Dependants 18 Years and Over	Dependants 0 - 17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	0	0	\$221	\$438
1	0	1	\$341	\$438
	1	0	\$547	\$574
2	0	2	\$341	\$438
	1	1	\$547	\$574
	2	0	\$683	\$726

For each additional dependant, add \$153 if the dependant is 18 years of age or over or \$0 if the dependant 0-17 years of age.

Shelter

•The maximum amount payable for shelter is set out in the following table:

Benefit Unit Size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance
1	\$364
2	\$572
3	\$620
4	\$674
5	\$726
6 or more	\$753



Assets Levels

Benefit Unit Size	Maximum Asset Level
Single applicant or participant (no spouse/no dependants)	\$585
Applicant or participant with spouse (no dependants)	\$1010
Applicant or participant with spouse and one dependant	\$1694
Applicant or participant with spouse and one dependant, plus additional dependants	\$1694 + \$500 for each additional dependant
Applicant or participant with one dependant (no spouse)	\$1619
Applicant or participant with one dependant, plus additional dependants (no spouse)	\$1619 + \$500 for each additional dependant
Child under Temporary Care or a dependant of a dependant	\$500

Employment Assistance

- Under the Ontario Works Act and Regulations, as a condition of eligibility, every employable applicant or participant must participate in employment assistance activities including:
 - Single people (age 16 +)
 - Couples with or without children
 - Sole support parents
 - Dependent adults 18 years of age or older



Employment Assistance

- Assists people to become and stay employed. It includes:



Community Participation

- volunteer opportunity to
 - obtain job skills,
 - make employment contacts
 - improve the employment history



Substance Abuse Recovery Program

- May be available
 - As a first step toward self reliance

- SCAMHS program
 - 2 year funding program



Basic Education/Job Specific Skills Training

- Classes and workshops
 - improve their language skills
 - complete their secondary school education
 - upgrade literacy and/or numeracy skills



Employment Placement and Self Employment

- Is for participants
 - who are job ready
 - have a clear job goal
 - have the skills, experience and qualifications to do the job
 - have good job search skills
 - all barriers to employment are addressed



LEAP (Learning, Earning and Parenting) – ages 16-25

- Assists 16 – 25 year old parents
 - **Learning** -Promotes high school graduation
 - **Earning** - access the full range of employment assistance to develop employment skills so that they are job ready
 - **Parenting** -variety of programs available to assist the participant to develop parenting skills

16/ 17 year olds

- Assist minors who are not living at home
 - They have to be in school
 - They have to have a trustee (preferably generationally older than them)
 - There has to be evidence to that there is a familial breakdown or that parents are unable to take care of them.



Who is Exempt from Participating?

- Temporary deferrals may be given for:
 - Temporary Medical Conditions
 - Primary Caregiver for a family member who is ill
 - Pregnancy or Parental Leave

- No Participation Requirements if:
 - Disabled
 - A Senior
 - Sole Support Parent

What are employment Supports?

- Range of activities to assist participants with getting back into the workforce





What Funding is Available?

- Funds available to assist with:
 - Work Boots/Safety Equipment
 - Transportation
 - Child Care
 - Uniforms/Work Attire
 - School Supplies etc.

Working While in Receipt of OW

- It is possible to be employed and still be in receipt of Ontario Works.
 - During the first 3 months of assistance, net earnings are deducted dollar for dollar, after daycare costs.
 - In the 4th month:
 - From the net earnings, 50% earnings deductions will be applied.
 - From this amount daycare will be subtracted.
 - The remaining amount is all that will be deducted from the OW assistance.



■ Gross Earnings	\$1000.00
■ Mandatory Payroll Deductions	- <u>\$251.00</u>
	\$749.00
■ Earnings Exemption	X <u>50%</u>
	\$374.50
■ Childcare	- <u>\$300.00</u>
■ Deducted from OW	\$74.50

Other Types of Assistance

- Temporary Care Assistance
- Emergency Shelters
- Women and Children's Crisis Centres
- Domiciliary Care Services



Other Types of Assistance cont'd

- Funerals and Burials
- Non Social Assistance benefits
- Funding for Poverty and Homelessness
- Rent Bank



Ontario Works Office Locations

- Ontario Works Main Administration
1110 Hwy 26 West
Midhurst, ON L0L 1X0
Telephone: (705) 722-3132
Fax: (705) 722-4720
- Barrie Ontario Works Office
136 Bayfield St, 4th Floor
Barrie, ON L4M 3B1
Telephone: (705) 722-3132
Fax: (705) 727-7928
- Collingwood Ontario Works Office
186 Hurontario St, Unit 1
Collingwood, ON L9Y 4T4
Telephone: (705) 722-3132
Fax: (705) 444-9219
- Orillia Ontario Works Office
50 Andrew St S, Suite 202
Orillia, ON L3V 7T5
Telephone: (705) 722-3132
Fax: (705) 326-2926
- Midland Ontario Works Office
334 King St, Unit 3
Midland, ON L4R 3M8
Telephone: (705) 722-3132
Fax: (705) 527-5952
- Alliston Ontario Works Office
39 Victoria Street East Town Square 2
Alliston, ON L9R 1T3
Telephone: (705) 722-3132
Fax: (705) 434-3001



QUESTIONS?