

# OW & ODSP Rates and the Ontario Child Benefit

as of September 30, 2017

The provincial government announced increases to Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates in the 2017 Ontario Budget. Increases will appear on OW and ODSP cheques received at the end of September. See page 2 for more information.

The table below shows current and new Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts for different family types. It also shows maximum Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) amounts. The OCB was increased by the rate of inflation in July 2017 and is an important part of the total incomes of people on OW and ODSP who have children. Please read the notes below for more information.

Family Type	Current				New as of Sept 30, 2017			
OW	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total
Single	\$330	\$376	\$0	\$706	\$337	\$384	\$0	\$721
Single Parent - 1 child	\$347	\$619	\$113	\$1,079	\$354	\$632	\$114	\$1,100
Single Parent - 2 children	\$347	\$672	\$226	\$1,245	\$354	\$686	\$229	\$1,269
Couple	\$476	\$619	\$0	\$1,095	\$486	\$632	\$0	\$1,118
Couple - 1 child	\$476	\$672	\$113	\$1,261	\$486	\$686	\$114	\$1,286
Couple - 2 children	\$476	\$729	\$226	\$1,431	\$486	\$744	\$229	\$1,459
ODSP								
Single	\$649	\$479	\$0	\$1,128	\$662	\$489	\$0	\$1,151
Single Parent - 1 child	\$792	\$753	\$113	\$1,658	\$805	\$769	\$114	\$1,688
Single Parent - 2 children	\$792	\$816	\$226	\$1,834	\$805	\$833	\$230	\$1,868
Couple	\$935	\$753	\$0	\$1,688	\$954	\$769	\$0	\$1,723
Couple - 1 child	\$935	\$816	\$113	\$1,864	\$954	\$833	\$114	\$1,901
Couple - 2 children	\$935	\$886	\$226	\$2,047	\$954	\$904	\$230	\$2,088

- Amounts shown are maximums and may not apply in every situation – for example, people whose actual housing charges are less than the maximum shelter amount will only receive the amount they pay, not the maximum. People on OW or ODSP should ask their caseworker about amounts that apply in their case.
- OCB amounts may be lower than the maximum, depending on the net income of the family, and families must file their income taxes in order to receive it. Children in the examples above are under age 18.
- Amounts for couples on ODSP apply only to situations where one person in the couple has a disability. See page 2 for the “double-disabled” rate for couples where both have a disability.
- People on OW / ODSP may be eligible for other provincial and federal benefits, such as the G/HST credit, the Ontario Trillium Benefit, or the Canada Child Benefit, and may qualify for other benefits through social assistance. These benefits are not shown here as amounts vary depending on each household’s situation.

### **Increases to Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts:**

- After many years of increasing rates differentially, depending on family size and program, the provincial government has returned to the practice of giving everyone on OW and ODSP the same percentage increase. For example, single people on Ontario Works are getting the same percentage increase as everyone else, and people on ODSP will receive an increase for the amounts intended to support their family members. Returning to the standard increase practice is both positive and negative. It ends the freeze on benefit increases for family members of people on ODSP but it no longer gives priority to improving the incomes of single people on OW, whose benefit levels continue to be dangerously low.
- The provincial government has also returned to the practice of adding the increases proportionately to both the basic needs and maximum shelter amounts for all family types.
- Couples on ODSP who both have a disability receive a basic needs and shelter rate that is capped at a specified maximum. This “double-disabled” rate will increase from \$1,902 to \$1,941 per month. Other benefits that these couples are eligible for, like the Special Diet Allowance or the Remote Communities Allowance, are added on top of the “double-disabled” rate. Benefits for any dependent children they may have are also added on top.

### **Increases to other benefits:**

- A 2% increase will also apply to:
  - the Advanced Age Allowance
  - board and lodging rates
  - the Special Boarder Allowance
  - the guide dog benefit
  - the Personal Needs Allowance
  - temporary care assistance
  - First Nations emergency hostel services per diems
  - amounts for dependents with dependents, financially independent adults living with parents, sponsored immigrants living with their sponsors, residents of interval and transition homes
  - amounts for residents of long-term care homes, chronic care facilities, community residences (provincial placements), interval and transition homes, intensive support residences, and supported group living residences.
- The Remote Communities Allowance will increase by \$50 (to \$267) for the first person in the benefit unit, and by \$25 for each additional person. This benefit applies to people living in communities without year-round road access north of the 50<sup>th</sup> parallel. (This benefit used to be called the “Northern Allowance”.)
- The maximum Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) rate will increase from \$480 to \$490 per month.

### **Benefits that are not being increased:**

- the Special Diet Allowance
- the Pregnancy / Breast-feeding Nutritional Allowance.