

# British Columbia

## Table of Contents

<b>INCOME ASSISTANCE:</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>General supplements</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Bus pass.....	2
Camp fees.....	3
Christmas .....	3
Clothing .....	3
Co-operative housing share purchase.....	3
Crisis supplement.....	3
Family bonus .....	3
Family maintenance.....	3
Funeral costs .....	3
Guide dog and service dog.....	3
Identification (ID) fees.....	4
Lost or stolen cheque.....	4
Moving, transportation, and living costs .....	4
Pre-natal shelter.....	4
School start-up.....	4
Security deposit.....	4
Travel.....	4
Utility security deposit .....	4
<b>Health supplements</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Alcohol and drug residential treatment .....	5
Alternative hearing assistance .....	5
Dental.....	5
Diet .....	5
Extended medical therapies.....	5
Hearing instruments .....	5
Infant formula .....	5
Medical supplies, equipment and devices .....	6
Medical transportation .....	6
Natal supplement.....	6
Nutritional supplement.....	6
Optical.....	6
Orthotics and bracing.....	6
Tube feeding .....	6
<b>DISABILITY:</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>HEALTH:</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>HOUSING:</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>CHILDREN/FAMILY:</b> .....	<b>19</b>

## INCOME ASSISTANCE:

If you are in need and have no other resources, you may be eligible for income assistance. This can help support your transition to employment.

A monthly income assistance rate based on your situation and the size of your family unit. For example, for payments issued for the May 2021 benefit month, you could get up to:

- \$935.00 if you are single
- \$1,427.22 if you and your spouse are both on assistance and you have no children
- \$1,270.58 if you are a single parent with one child
- \$1,611.06 if you and your spouse are both on assistance and have one child
- Medical services plan coverage
- No-deductible PharmaCare prescription coverage

Eligibility: if any of these situations:

- You're out of work or not earning enough to meet your basic needs
- You're waiting for other sources of money to arrive
- You can't work at all
- You urgently need food, shelter or medical attention

## General supplements

Each supplement has different eligibility criteria. [Contact us](#) to find out if you qualify for any of these additional supports. Call 1-866-866-0800.

## Bus pass

If you are a low-income senior, you could get a reduced-cost bus pass.

If you have the Persons with Disabilities designation, you get transportation support as part of your disability assistance. You may choose to receive this support as either:

- A [bus pass](#) or
- Money added to your monthly disability assistance payment

[Get more information on the BC Bus Pass Program.](#)

## Camp fees

If you have children or are an adult with a disability, you could get money to pay part or the entire fee to attend a camp.

## Christmas

This money helps with extra expenses at Christmas. It will automatically be added to your December payment.

## Clothing

If you're living in a special care facility and have no other resources available, you may be able to get money to purchase necessary clothing.

## Co-operative housing share purchase

If you are moving into co-op housing, you may be eligible for money to pay for your membership share. You will have to repay this money when you move or leave assistance.

## Crisis supplement

If you face an unexpected emergency need, you may be able to get this payment which applies to situations that could affect you or your family's health or safety.

## Family bonus

If you have dependent children and have not received your Family Bonus payment from the federal government, you may be able to get a top-up supplement.

## Family maintenance

You can request help to get a [maintenance order for child or spousal support](#) from your former spouse. The government also [helps enforce maintenance orders](#).

## Funeral costs

The government may assist when a person dies and there is no money to pay for funeral expenses. This is available to anyone with low-income in B.C. who has no other funds, even if they are not on assistance.

## Guide dog and service dog

You may be able to get money to help with costs for your certified guide dog team, service dog team and/or a retired guide or service dog team.

## Identification (ID) fees

You could get money to obtain I.D. if you don't have what you need to apply for assistance.

## Lost or stolen cheque

If your cheque is lost or stolen, you could get a replacement as long as you didn't sign the lost or stolen cheque.

## Moving, transportation, and living costs

You may be able to get money to cover your transportation and living expenses if you move or need transportation for:

- Starting a confirmed job, if you aren't eligible for supports from [WorkBC](#)
- Attending a court hearing when receiving family maintenance services
- Getting a court-ordered paternity blood test
- Finding a new place to live because your current housing has been sold or condemned

## Pre-natal shelter

If you are pregnant, you may be able to get money to secure or maintain stable housing before your child is born. You must have no spouse and have no other dependent children.

## School start-up

Extra money may be available to buy back-to-school supplies for children under 19 years old.

## Security deposit

If you rent your housing, you could get help for your security deposit and/or pet damage deposit. You will have to pay this money back.

## Travel

If you have a developmental disability, you could get money for travel to attend a self-help skill or work-placement program approved by Community Living British Columbia (CLBC).

## Utility security deposit

If you need to get electricity or natural gas service, you may be able to get money for a security deposit. You will have to pay this money back.

## Health supplements

Each supplement has its own eligibility criteria. [Contact us](#) to find out if you qualify for any of these additional supports.

## Alcohol and drug residential treatment

If you are in an alcohol or drug residential treatment facility, you may be able to get help with the costs. This may include transportation to the facility or a comforts allowance.

## Alternative hearing assistance

You may be able to get money for [alternative hearing assistance](#) if you:

- Have permanent profound hearing loss in both ears, and
- Can't benefit from the supplement for [hearing instruments](#)

## Dental

Depending on the kind of assistance you receive, you may be able to get [basic dental coverage](#).

## Diet

If you need a [special diet](#) for a confirmed medical condition or diagnosis, you may be able to get help with the costs. This is different than the [monthly nutritional supplement](#) available for people on disability assistance.

## Extended medical therapies

You may be able to get [services](#) such as acupuncture, chiropractic, massage therapy, naturopathy, podiatry and physical therapy.

## Hearing instruments

You may be eligible for [hearing instruments](#) and any repairs and supplies.

## Infant formula

For your child's first 12 months, you could get money for:

- Regular [infant formula](#). This is only if your child is at risk from contracting a disease through breastfeeding

- Specialized infant formula. This is only if your child has a medical condition that requires special formula. You may be able to get this longer than 12 months if it's medically required

## Medical supplies, equipment and devices

If you have a medical need, you may be able to get money for necessary supplies, [equipment and devices](#).

## Medical transportation

You may be able to get help if you must pay [extraordinary costs to travel](#) for essential medical treatment.

## Natal supplement

If you are pregnant or have an infant less than seven months old, you may be able to get an extra \$45 per month.

## Nutritional supplement

You may be able to get money for up to three months of [nutritional supplements](#) (for example, Ensure, Boost, etc.) to prevent critical weight loss if you're recovering from:

- Surgery
- A severe injury
- A serious disease
- Side effects of medical treatment

## Optical

Depending on the kind of assistance you receive, you may be able to get [optical services covered](#).

## Orthotics and bracing

You may be able to get [orthoses](#) to meet a medically essential need.

## Tube feeding

If your primary source of nutrition must be given [through tube feeding](#) and no other resources are available, you may be eligible for help with the cost of the nutritional product, and medically necessary equipment and supplies.

HOW: Use [My Self Serve](#) to assess your eligibility and apply for assistance from the B.C. government. If you can't complete the application online, call 1-866-866-0800 or visit [your local office](#).

## DISABILITY:

### DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

Disability assistance can help you if you need financial or health support. You must be designated as a Person with Disabilities (PWD) to receive this type of assistance.

Note: you will also be eligible for the general supplements listed above

#### Eligibility

To be eligible, you must:

- Show that you meet financial eligibility to receive assistance
- Be 18 years old (you can start the application process when you are 17 ½)
- Have a severe physical or mental impairment that is expected to continue for more than two years
- Be significantly restricted in your ability to perform daily-living activities
- Require assistance with daily living activities from
  - Another person
  - An assistive device, or
  - An assistance animal

HOW: [Contact us](#) to request an application. For help call Call 1-866-866-0800:

### GRANT EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENTS (CSG)

The Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Persons with Permanent Disabilities (CSG-PDSE) is designed to help students overcome educational barriers that are caused by their disability. The CSG-PDSE can provide funding of up to \$20,000 for services and/or equipment through an application for each year an eligible student is enrolled in an approved academic program. The purpose of this grant is to enable students with disabilities to purchase assistive technology (equipment) and to pay for support services (such as tutoring or note-taking) that help them to access their studies in a way that reduces the impact of their disability.

#### Eligibility:

- You are a resident of British Columbia.

- You are currently enrolled in a public or private post-secondary institution.
- You have a permanent disability or a chronic medical condition that significantly restricts your ability to perform the daily activities required to participate fully in post-secondary studies.
- You have demonstrated financial need for full-time or part-time studies.

#### HOW:

1. Download the [Appendix 8 application forms](#) from the StudentAid BC website.
2. Contact the office supporting students with disabilities or the financial aid officer at your post-secondary institution for guidance completing the application. *A school official must sign the form.*
3. include proof of course registration.
4. include medical documentation detailing your permanent disability and its impact on your schooling. If your medical documentation is more than three years old, have your doctor complete SECTION 4: VERIFICATION OF PERMANENT DISABILITY in your application.
5. If you are applying for assistive technology, mail the completed application and supporting documentation to Assistive Technology BC, who will work with you and the office supporting students with disabilities at your institution to develop an Individualized Technology Action Plan.

#### LOAN EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENTS (PPL)

- Loaning assistive technology to students, as informed by the ATBC assessment process.
- Training and ongoing technical support to ensure that students are able to implement and sustain their personalized technology plan throughout their studies.

#### Eligibility:

- You are a resident of BC,
- You are legally able to work in BC,
- You are enrolled in a public postsecondary institution, and
- You have a permanent disability (or a chronic medical condition that is expected to persist for more than two years and is the primary barrier to training or employment)

#### HOW:

1. Contact the Student Services or Disability Services office at your public postsecondary institution. The staff there will assist you to complete the PPL application form. Note: You cannot apply without your school's support; a school official must sign the form.
2. Include the following required supporting documentation with your PPL application:
  - Recent formal documentation (e.g. medical, psycho-educational assessment report, or audiology report) that verifies your disabling condition and describes how it causes you to experience daily functional limitations.
  - Proof of course registration.



3. Mail the completed application form and supporting documentation to Assistive Technology BC

### PPL APPLICATION FORM Printable PPL [Application form](#)

#### Communication Assistance for Youth and Adults

- Communication Assistance for Youth and Adults (CAYA) is a province-wide service program that supports adults aged 19 years and older who require an augmentative/alternative communication (AAC) system due to a severe communication disability, i.e. speech that is not functional for daily communication.

#### Eligibility:

- Adults aged 19 years and older who require an AAC system due to a severe communication disability, i.e. speech that is not functional for daily communication\*
- Adults aged 19 years and older who are already using an AAC system, but require further training and resources to improve or maintain communicative function
- Students in the last year of their K-12 program who require transition support for their AAC system as they move to adulthood.

HOW: Download the form in PDF format, fill it in and send it back to us for prompt service.

[Download Now](#)

#### WorkBC Assistive Technology Services

Assistive Technology Services provides equipment and devices to help individuals thrive in the workplace.

Supports available through Assistive Technology Services include:

- Assistive devices, equipment and technology
- Ergonomic supports (e.g. ergonomic furniture, lighting systems)
- Restorative supports (e.g. canes, crutches)
- Attendant services related to work (e.g. assistance with mobility)
- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting and captioning services
- Communication and hearing devices related to work
- Workplace access and modification
- Vehicle modifications

#### Eligibility:

Assistive Technology Services are available to individuals who have a work-related barrier due to a disability or a functional limitation. This may include barriers related to traveling to and from the workplace.

To be eligible for Assistive Technology Services, you must:

- Be a resident of and be legally eligible to work in British Columbia and 16 years of age or older
- Need assistive equipment, devices or disability supports to start work or to avoid losing:
  - your current work or
  - self-employment or,
  - volunteer work that is part of a longer term goal of employment

HOW: For more information or to access Assistive Technology Services online, [click here](#).

## The At Home Program

The At Home Program is designed to support children and teens with a severe disability or complex health care needs – find out about eligibility requirements and services available:

- **Respite Benefits** - Provides funding to purchase respite care for eligible children. Families may choose the type of respite services that best suit their needs, either in their home or at another location.
- **Medical Benefits** - Provides one or more of the following upon the recommendation of a relevant regulated health care professional: medically essential equipment and supplies; hearing aids; dental, optical and orthodontic services related to a disability; extended therapies for school-aged children; medical transportation; PharmaCare coverage; and premium-free MSP coverage.

HOW : A Worker will determine your eligibility

Step 1: With help from a doctor, complete the [At Home Program Application](#) (PDF).

Step 2: Mail or fax the application to your local [At Home Program Regional Office](#) (PDF).

## Nursing Support Services

Nursing Support Services (NSS) assists parents and caregivers of children and youth (0-19) with medical complexities to lead active, healthy lives in their communities.

Provide respite care in the home for eligible children and youth

We provide in-home respite care for children who may:

- have a tracheostomy
- require supported ventilation (ventilator, BiPAP, CPAP)
- have a life-limiting/palliative diagnosis
- require peritoneal dialysis
- have other conditions that require the support of a registered nurse

HOW: Referrals to Nursing Support Services are made by a physician or nurse practitioner who is licensed to practice in British Columbia.

### ENDOWMENT 150

Helps British Columbians with disabilities learn about and access tax benefits that will help them save for the future. As part of this initiative, Plan Institute is distributing a one-time \$150 grant to help low-income British Columbians to start growing their RDSP.

Endowment 150 grants are available for all children in BC with RDSPs, and individuals and families with low-incomes who are residents of BC and have an RDSP.

Eligibility:

- Have not previously received a \$150 gift from Endowment 150
- Are under 60 years of age
- Have an RDSP (this is a federal plan)
  - If you are applying on behalf of someone else, they must be listed as the RDSP beneficiary
- Have received income assistance any time after January 1, 2008 OR have an income at or below \$30,450 in one year since 2008.

HOW : [Adult Application Form Online](#) or call 604.439.9566.

## HEALTH:

### MSP

The Medical Services Plan is the provincial health insurance program that covers health care benefits for BC residents. Learn about health care benefits of MSP, including services provided by physicians and other health care practitioners.

All B.C. residents must enrol in the Medical Services Plan (MSP).

HOW: <https://my.gov.bc.ca/msp/enrolment/check-eligibility>

## Fair PharmaCare Plan

Fair PharmaCare helps B.C. families pay for [eligible](#) prescription drugs, dispensing fees and some medical supplies. Fair PharmaCare is income-based; **the less a family earns, the more help they get.**

Eligibility:

All residents of B.C. are eligible for Fair PharmaCare coverage if they:

- Have [Medical Services Plan \(MSP\)](#) coverage, and
- Give PharmaCare permission to check their income with the Canada Revenue Agency. (Income is from two years prior)

Coverage is for families, not individuals. A family can be a:

- Single person
- Married or common-law couple
- Single person with dependent children
- Couple with dependent children

If one or more family members do not meet the eligibility requirements, other family members can still register.

HOW: [Register now](#)

## SEE ABOVE: "Health Supplements"

### Travel Assistance Program (TAP BC)

The Travel Assistance Program is a partnership between the Ministry of Health and private transportation carriers. The carriers offer discounted fares to residents travelling within B.C. for specialist medical care.

Eligibility: To be eligible for TAP as a patient:

- you must be a B.C. resident and be enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP);
- you must have a referral from a physician or nurse practitioner for MSP insured specialist medical services which are not available locally;
- your travel expenses must not be covered by third party insurance, such as an employer plan, extended medical plan, Insurance Corporation of BC, WorkSafeBC or federal government program (e.g. Veterans' Affairs).

- The referral must be to the closest location for non-emergency medical specialist services not available in your community. TAP forms are only available from your referring physician or nurse practitioner at the time the referral is made

HOW: Your physician, nurse practitioner, or specialty clinic will provide the TAP form and complete most of it for you.

## BC Family Residence Program

The BC Family Residence Program provides accommodation assistance to enable families to stay together when their child requires medical care at BC Children's Hospital or Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, including premature babies and newborns with other health concerns. Enhanced travel assistance is also provided through ground transportation for children and air transportation for patients of all ages. Visit: [BC Family Residence Program](#)

Call: To apply for accommodation assistance through Variety - The Children's Charity of British Columbia:

Telephone: 1-866-496-6946

## Health Connections

Health Connections is a regional medical travel assistance program implemented by four regional health authorities which provide transportation options to help reduce costs for rural residents. Learn about which health authorities have programs and what services are available. Visit: [Health Connections](#)

# HOUSING:

## Supportive Housing

Supportive housing is subsidized housing with on-site supports for single adults, seniors and people with disabilities at risk of or experiencing homelessness. These supports help people find and maintain stable housing.

Tenants have self-contained units with kitchenettes and private bathrooms. There are also communal spaces, including, in some buildings, culturally appropriate spaces. Supportive housing provides a range of on-site, non-clinical supports such as: life skills training, connections to health care, mental health or substance-use services. Staff are on-site 24/7 to provide support.

Eligibility:

- Are a low-income adult

- Are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Require supports to live independently
- Need support to maintain a successful tenancy

HOW: To apply for supportive housing, you must submit an application to the Supportive Housing Registration Service. You only need to apply once.

1. Get the [Supportive Housing Registration Service Application form](#)
2. Submit your completed application:
  - Scan and Upload: Using our [Program Upload Form](#)
  - In person: Bring your application to a [BC Housing office](#)
  - By mail: The Supportive Housing Registry, BC Housing, 101-4555 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4V8
  - By fax: 604-439-4729 (only fax pages 2, 3 and 4)

## Rent assistance

The provincial government provides rental assistance for low-income working families with children and low-income seniors.

1. The Rental Assistance Program (RAP) - working families with children with rental assistance in the private market.

### Eligibility:

- Some, or all, of your household income is from a job
- You have a total before-tax annual household income of \$40,000 or less
- You have at least one or more dependent children. A dependent child is unmarried; a stepchild, adopted child or legal ward, mainly supported by you.
- Dependent children are:
  - under 19 years of age, or
  - under 25 years of age and are full-time students at a secondary school, university or vocational institute. Education providers must be a recognized place of study that grants diplomas, certificates or degrees, or
  - Of any age, because of a mental or physical disability as defined by Canada Revenue Agency.

- You have less than \$100,000 in assets.
- You file an annual income tax return.
- More than 30 per cent of your household income goes towards household rent. Or, you pay pad rental for a manufactured home or trailer that you own and occupy.
- You lived in British Columbia for the full 12 months before the date of application.
- You meet the program residency requirements.

HOW:

- Online: Download an Application Form, or
- By mail: No printer? Request a paper copy of the application form by calling 604-433-2218 or 1-800-257-7756

2. The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) - low-income British Columbians, age 60 and over, who rent in the private market with direct cash assistance.

Eligibility:

- You are age 60 or older.
- You lived in BC the full, 12-month period before submitting your application.
- You, and your spouse you share a home with, meet Canadian citizenship requirements:
  - Individuals with private sponsorship that has broken down
  - People who applied for refugee status
  - Individuals legally in Canada as permanent residents, not under sponsorship
  - Canadian citizens not under sponsorship
- You pay more than 30% of your gross, before tax, monthly household income towards rent for your home. If you live in a trailer, this includes pad rental (manufactured home) that you own and live in.

HOW:

1. Online: Download an Application Form , or

2. By mail: Request a paper copy of the application form by calling 604-433-2218 or 1-800-257-7756

### Home owner grants

Most eligible property owners qualify for the regular grant (also called the basic grant).

On top of the regular grant, you may qualify for an additional grant if you are:

- A senior
- A veteran
- A person with a disability
- Living with a spouse or relative with a disability
- A spouse or relative of a deceased owner

Regular grant - The regular grant amount is \$570 for properties located in the Capital Regional District, the Metro Vancouver Regional District and the Fraser Valley Regional District. For all other areas of the province the amount is \$770.

Eligibility:

- Be the registered owner of the residence (or a spouse or relative of the deceased owner)
- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Live in B.C.
- Occupy the residence as your principal residence
- The assessed or partitioned value of your property must not exceed the grant threshold
- Ensure you meet additional requirements if you are buying or selling your property

SPECIFIC ADD ONS: additional \$275

- A senior - must be 65 years old
- A veteran
- A person with a disability - You must meet one of the following two requirements:
  - You receive provincial disability assistance, hardship assistance or a supplement under the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act.

Or



- You're a person with a disability, or you have a spouse or relative with a disability living with you in your principal residence, and you:
  - § Pay at least \$150 per month during the calendar year to help the person with disability with daily living activities in your principal residence, or
  - § Have spent at least \$2,000 for a qualifying modification to your principal residence, or
  - § Purchased your principal residence with a qualifying modification completed by a previous owner and the modification cost at least \$2,000.

HOW: Apply online: <https://www.etax.gov.bc.ca/btp/HOG/?Link=ETaxHOG>

## Home Adaptations For Independence

The BC Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations (BC RAHA) program provides financial help in the form of rebates to eligible low-income households to complete home adaptations for independent living.

### Eligibility:

- You, or a member of your household, has a disability or lasting ability loss.
- Your home adaptation request fits and relates to the disability or ability loss. Some requests need to be supported with an assessment from an Occupational Therapist (OT) or a Physical Therapist (PT).
- The homeowner(s) and the person(s) needing the adaptations must be one of the following:
  - Canadian citizen
  - Permanent resident of Canada
  - Refugee sponsored by the Government of Canada
  - People who have applied for \*refugee status  
(\*Refugees under private sponsorship do not qualify unless BC Housing accepts private sponsorship has broken down)
- Total before-tax household income is less than 117,080.
- Household assets are less than \$100,000 (does not include equity in home being adapted).
- The home being adapted is the primary residence of the homeowner and the person needing the adaptations.

- The BC Assessment value of the home is below [Home Value Limits](#) . Or the home value is below the average assessed value of homes in your area.
- The home needing adaptation qualifies for this program.  
Check: [List of eligible and ineligible housing](#).

HOW:

- [Download the BC RAHA application](#) for Homeowners
- Or, call our office at 604-433-2218, toll free 1-800-257-7756 to have **an application sent by mail**.

### [Home Renovation Tax Credit for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities](#)

The Home renovation tax credit for seniors and persons with disabilities assists eligible individuals 65 and over and persons with disabilities with the cost of certain permanent home renovations to improve accessibility or be more functional or mobile at home.

You're eligible to claim the credit for the year if on the last day of the tax year you're:

- A resident of B.C., and
- A senior or a family member living with a senior, or
- A person with a disability or a family member living with a person with a disability (for 2016 and later tax years).
- The renovation must be to your principal residence, which is the home you primarily live in (including a non-seasonal mobile home).
- The renovation or alteration must help a senior or a person with a disability by:
  - Improving access to the home or land,
  - Improving mobility and functions within the home or land, or
  - Reducing the risk of harm within the home or land.

HOW:

You can claim the credit when you file your T1 income tax return. Complete the [British Columbia Home Renovation Tax Credit for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities form \(Schedule BC\(S12\)\)](#) and enter the amount you spent on eligible renovations beside **box 60480** on the [British Columbia Credits form \(BC479\)](#).

### [Subsidized Housing](#)

Eligibility:

- Family – Defined as a minimum of two people, including one **dependent child**. Who is considered a dependent child? An unmarried child, stepchild, adopted child or legal ward, mainly supported by the applicant, who is:
  - Under 19 years of age; or
  - Under 25 years of age and registered in full-time school, university or vocational institute which provides a recognized diploma, certificate, or degree; or
  - Of any age who, because of mental or physical infirmity, is accepted as a dependent for income tax purposes.
  - Senior – Defined as a single person age 55 and older, or a couple where at least one person is age 55 or older\*
  - People with disabilities – Those who can live independently and are in receipt of a recognized disability pension or are considered **disabled for income tax purposes**.
  - Single people and couples – You are a single person, or a couple, with a low income and homeless, or at risk of homelessness. In addition, you do not meet the definitions of seniors or people with disabilities.

RESIDENCY: Applicants must permanently reside in British Columbia when applying, and each member of the household must be one of the following: Canadian citizen, Individual lawfully admitted into Canada for permanent residence, Refugee sponsored by the Government of Canada, Individual who has applied for refugee status

INCOME: To be eligible for subsidized housing, the applicant's gross household income must be below certain income limits, as established by the [Housing Income Limits \(HILs\)](#) are determined by BC Housing from time to time, and represent the income required to pay the average market rent for an appropriately sized unit in the private market. Average market rents are derived from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Annual Rent Market Survey.

## CHILDREN/FAMILY:

### Child Opportunity Benefit

provides a tax-free monthly payment to families with children under the age of 18.

The maximum B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit amount families may receive each year is:

- \$1,600 for a family's first child
- \$1,000 for a second child
- \$800 for each subsequent child under the age of 18

How: If your child is registered for the Canada Child Benefit, they're automatically registered for the B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit.

### Affordable Child Care Benefit

Families with a pre-tax income of up to \$111,000 are eligible.

A parent or guardian must be:

- A resident of B.C. (you must have a current B.C. address)
- A Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection
- [Use the estimator to see how much your child care could qualify for](#)

Parents must provide one of the following reasons for requiring child care:

- Working or self-employed
- Attending school
- Participating in an employment program
- Looking for work (only one parent or guardian)
- Living with a medical condition that interferes with your ability to care for your child
- Your child is attending licensed preschool
- You have been referred by a Ministry of Children and Family Development or Delegated Aboriginal Agency social worker.

HOW: apply [here](#)

### Young Parent Program

Parents who are under the age of 25 may qualify for help with child care while they finish high school – including:

- Up to \$1,500 (per month per child) to help cover the cost of child care
- A space for their child in a care program at or near the school they're attending

A parent can qualify for this funding by applying for the [Affordable Child Care Benefit](#). They must also:

- Be a resident of B.C.
- Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection

- Be under the age of 25
- Have a child that was born on or before the parent's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Be participating in an education program for the purpose of completing Grade 12
- Have their child enrolled in a licensed child care facility that is operating an approved program