

April 23, 2020

May 1 is eight days away!

Do your renters know there are three government subsidy programs available to those who have lost their jobs or are working reduced hours?

Is it in your best interests to ensure they know, as that might decrease the number of non/partial rent payments?

The BC Government announced today the promised \$1000 Emergency Benefit for Workers will be available, probably by about mid-May.

This is a non-taxable benefit, issued by the Ministry of Employment, Business, and Economic Development. It is not limited to tenants; it is available only to people entitled to receive the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

If any of your renters have not paid or partially paid April's rent and/or you are concerned with their ability to pay May's rent, you might want to contact them and provide this information – a summary of three supplements/grants available to those who have lost their jobs or had their hours significantly reduced:

BC Temporary Rental Supplement Program

Amount:

- \$300 a month for households with no dependents; paid to landlord
- \$500 a month for households with dependents; paid to landlord
- Available for April, May, and June rent

Eligibility:

- 2019 gross household income less than:
 - \$74,150 for singles and couples
 - \$113,040 for households with dependents
- Receiving or eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit
- Able to provide evidence of a drop of 25% or more in monthly household employment income
- Paying more than 30% of current household income toward rent
- Not receiving any other government rent subsidy, e.g. RAP or SAFER

Application Process: Tenant applies online; BC Housing reviews and if eligible requires landlord to complete application

Application Portal: bctrs.bchousing.org

BC Emergency Benefit for Workers

Amount: \$1000 non-taxable one-time payment paid to the applicant

Eligibility:

- Resided in British Columbia on March 15, 2020
- Be at least 15 years old on the date of application
- Not receiving provincial income assistance or disability assistance
- Have been approved for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, even if no federal payment received yet
- Have filed, or agree to file, a 2019 B.C. income tax return

Application portal opens:

- May 1 for online applications – Google Emergency Benefit for Workers

- May 4 for phone applications - number not on website; phone [1 604 660-2421](tel:16046602421) to get number

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

Amount: \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks paid to the applicant

Eligibility:

- Canadian resident at least 15 years old
- Have not quit their job voluntarily
- Stopped working for a reason related to COVID-19 or employment insurance benefits have run out between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020
- Had employment income of at least \$5000 in 2019 or the 12 months prior to application
- Have not earned more than \$1000 in employment and/or self-employment income for 14 or more consecutive days within the four-week benefit period of the initial claim.

- When submitting subsequent claims, have not earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income for the entire four-week benefit period of the new claim.

Application Portal: Easiest is to Google CERB and follow direction to either Canada Revenue or Service Canada websites. Application can be made by phone.