

COVID19 Financial Aid Available – For individuals

The following is intended to assist BC Residents who are currently having financial difficulties as a result of the recent COVID19 challenge. It is not an exhaustive list of resources, as new sources of funding appear each week and others expire. (I welcome input on missed sources, and will update accordingly.)

Benefit	Agency	Amount
Canada Emergency Response Benefit	CRA	\$2000/mon X 4 months (Must have earned \$5K in past year, less than \$1000 in past 4 weeks) Available as of April 6. https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html
BC Emergency Benefit for Workers	EB&ED	People on EI or CERB can get a one-time, tax-free \$1000 payment (May) https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports/emergency-benefit-workers
PWD/Welfare	SD&PR	\$300/mon increase to support payments, CERB income exempted
GST/HST Credit	CRA	Increase (May): \$400/mon – ind; \$600/mon - couples
Canada Child Tax Benefit	CRA	Increase: \$300/child
RRIFs	CRA	25% reduction in minimal withdrawal for 2020
Credit cards	Federally regulated CCs	Many credit card companies are now reducing their interest rates (Vancity at 0%) to assist folks who are facing hardship due to COVID19
General debt	Major banks, credit unions	Royal Bank and Vancity Credit Union are both specifically offering wide reaching credit relief to clients. Other banks are following suit. Warning: most banks are using compounding interest rates, making this relief very expensive.

Canada Student Loans – repayment freeze	NSLSC	March 30 – Sept 30, automatic freeze on required repayments
BC Student Loans – repayment freeze		March 30 – Sept 30, automatic freeze on required repayments
Canada Emergency Student Benefit	CRA	May – August, post-secondary students receive \$1250/mon (\$1750/mon for students with disabilities) Students who volunteer for COVID19 response efforts get \$1000 - \$5000 bursaries. Canada Student Grants have been doubled for 2020-21. Can get multiple benefits if summer job pays less than \$1000/mon. https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/support-for-students-and-recent-graduates-impacted-by-covid-19.html
Employment Insurance	Service Canada	No doctor’s note required, broader range of eligibility, can waive waiting period https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply.html
Climate Action Tax Credit	CRA	Paid in July, Adults: \$218, Kids: \$64, part of GST/HST credit
No evictions	BC Housing	In subsidized housing, no evictions due to non-payment of rent
Rent subsidies	BC Municipal Affairs	\$500/mon rent supplement for April, May & June. Must qualify for EI, CERB, or have a drop of +25% in household income. Applies to tenancies and co-ops. https://www.bchousing.org/BCTRS
BC Rent Bank	Vancity Foundation	Provides interest free loans to low income renters who facing eviction. NOT a COVID19 specific program. https://bcrentbank.ca/about-bc-rent-bank/
CMHC Funding	CMHC	Mortgage deferral program – CMHC insured mortgages https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/mortgage-loan-insurance/the-resource/covid19-understanding-mortgage-payment-deferral
Mortgage payments	Federally regulated banks	Many of the national banks - RBC, TD, BMO, Scotiabank, CIBC and National Bank, and some credit unions, have started offering relief/deferment for home mortgage payments.

BC Hydro payment deferral, grants	BC Hydro	<p>Can request deferral of bill payments, can get \$600 grants via Customer Crisis Fund - NOT a COVID19 specific program; if getting BC Emergency Benefit, can access COVID19 Relief Fund</p> <p>https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/covid-19-relief-fund.html</p>
FortisBC deferral	FortisBC	<p>Can request deferral of natural gas, propane, and electricity bills from April 1 to June 30. Automatic repayment plan extends payments over 12 months</p> <p>https://www.fortisbc.com/about-us/supporting-british-columbia-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/covid-19-customer-recovery-fund?utm_campaign=corporate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=upaknee</p>
ICBC Payments	ICBC	<p>Defer monthly payments for 90 days</p> <p>https://onlinebusiness.icbc.com/eforms/dotcom/jsp/ACG398.jsp</p>
Vehicle lease deferrals	Honda, Ford, Toyota	<p>These companies, and possibly other auto manufacturers, are offering lease and purchase payment deferral options</p>
Insurance Premium relief	Manulife, Wawanesa, Industrial Alliance, Sun Life, BMO	<p>Offering 90-day deferral programs for insurance premiums</p>
Free food	Food banks	<p>Many of the municipal food banks have modified their policies, given the increased number of folks who are struggling to purchase basic staples</p>
Free food – children	Starfish Pack	<p>Not a COVID19 specific program. Rotary International, through municipality-specific groups, provides weekend “meal packs” for children who are not receiving adequate food on weekends.</p> <p>https://starfishpack.com/</p>

Free food – children

Backpack Buddies

Not a COVID19 specific program. Connects volunteer students who assist in providing weekend “meal packs” for children who are not receiving adequate food on weekends.

<https://www.backpackbuddies.ca/>

If folks are feeling stressed, and would like assistance reaching sources of support, feel free to contact the undersigned.

I have not included COVID19 funding sources for employers/businesses, but am happy to provide a list upon request.

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