

Transition Child Benefit (TCB)

May 31, 2022

This fact sheet is solely for informational purposes. We urge you to consult with us at info@connectingottawa.com if you have any specific legal questions about a client's situation.

WHAT IS TCB?	The Transition Child Benefit (TCB) is paid to parents with children under the age of 18 who receive money from Ontario Works (OW) or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), but do not receive the Canada Child Benefit, or receive less than the full amount of Canada Child Benefit. Refugee claimants are the main recipients of TCB because they are not eligible for the Canada Child Benefit due to their immigration status.
DO I HAVE TO APPLY FOR TCB?	The TCB is a mandatory benefit that is paid to all eligible OW or ODSP recipients. You do not have to apply separately for the TCB (see note 1) and can voluntarily opt out of the TCB if you do not want to receive it. You can opt out of the TCB once you are informed of your eligibility for it by a worker from OW or ODSP. <i>Note 1: Some recipients of OW or ODSP may be asked to show proof that they are eligible for the TCB. For example, a refugee claimant may be asked to show proof in the form of their refugee claimant ID document. A failed claimant may need to show a Notice of Appeal to the Refugee Appeal Division, or a federal court judicial review notice.</i>
HOW MUCH TCB CAN I GET?	You will receive the full amount of TCB if you do not get any Ontario Child Benefit (see note 2) and Canada Child Benefit. The maximum monthly amounts are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$230 per child for recipients on OW • \$207 per child for recipients on ODSP <i>Note 2: Ontario Child Benefit payments are paid with the Canada Child Benefit in a single monthly payment. The Ontario Child Benefit is a tax-free amount for low- to moderate-income families. For July 2021 to June 2022, you can receive up to \$122.83 per month of Ontario Child Benefit. To apply and receive the benefit you must apply for the Canada Child Benefit. When you apply for the Canada Child Benefit you are automatically assessed for the Ontario Child Benefit.</i>
WHAT IF I SHARE CUSTODY?	If you share custody and are eligible for the TCB, you will get 50% of the TCB on a monthly basis.
AM I ELIGIBLE FOR TCB?	You are eligible for the TCB if (see note 3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You receive OW or ODSP • Your child is under 18 years of age and lives with you • You do not get any Ontario Child Benefit or any Canada Child Benefit (see note 4) OR • You get a limited amount of Ontario Child Benefit and/or Canada Child Benefit that might entitle you to a TCB top-up (this is a rare situation) <i>Note 3: The eligibility criteria for the TCB are in ss. 58.3(1) of the Ontario Works Regulation 134/98 and ss. 45.3(1) of the Ontario Disability Support Program Regulation 222/98. However, these Regulations reference a section of the federal Income Tax Act that was repealed in 2018 and no longer exists. It appears that the Regulations have not been updated to reflect this change. Connecting Ottawa relies on Ontario Works Directive 7.6 and Ontario Disability Support Program Directive 9.2 for information on eligibility for the TCB. These directives were last updated in March 2017.</i> <i>Note 4: Some reasons you may not receive the Ontario Child Benefit or Canada Child Benefit: failure to file taxes from the previous year; you are a refugee claimant or failed claimant; you recently moved to Ontario; you are waiting for Canada Child Benefit payments to start or there is a delay in receiving them.</i>
WHO ISN'T ELIGIBLE FOR THE TCB?	You will not receive the TCB if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are not eligible for OW or ODSP • You receive Extended Health Benefits or Transitional Health Benefits • You receive emergency hostel services • You live at an interval or transition home for victims of family violence for more than three months or the shelter charges you a monthly fee that is taken from your income assistance (case-by-case) • You get the full amount of Ontario Child Benefit and the full amount of Canada Child Benefit • You get Temporary Care Assistance (plan in place to return children to their parents)
WHY IS OW OR ODSP TRYING TO RECOVER TCB PAYMENTS?	If you receive a retroactive payment of the Ontario Child Benefit and/or Canada Child Benefit for the months in which the TCB has been paid, all or a portion of the TCB issued may be recovered by a reduction of OW or ODSP in the month following receipt of these retroactive payments. Income assistance for basic needs and shelter may be reduced by OW or ODSP for a maximum of three consecutive months or until the TCB has been collected in full (see note 5). <i>Note 5: Do not spend your retroactive Ontario Child Benefit and Canada Child Benefit payment right away because you may need this money to cover the reduction of OW or ODSP for three months or until the TCB has been collected in full.</i>
CAN I APPEAL A DECISION ABOUT TCB?	Yes. A decision by OW or ODSP about the TCB can be appealed by first filing an Internal Review request with OW or ODSP. If OW or ODSP confirms their original decision about your TCB, and you still do not agree with their decision, you can file an appeal to the Social Benefits Tribunal.
CAN I GET TCB AS A REFUGEE CLAIMANT?	Refugee claimants are the main recipients of TCB. This is because refugee claimants are not eligible for the Canada Child Benefit due to their immigration status. Therefore, a refugee claimant must not apply for the Canada Child Benefit. As a result, they will not be automatically assessed for the Ontario Child Benefit either.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE TRANSITION CHILD BENEFIT:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/transition-child-benefit>