



Housing Cambridge

COVID-19 Notice 07

We have compiled a short list of new **benefits, supports, and resources** that are being offered through Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments and local agencies during these times. Though this list is not exhaustive, we hope that it will assist families and individuals to be aware of what is being done to support them. Please note: Supports that require an application will be indicated with an *.

- For anyone who has lost their job or their working income, whether they are eligible for Employment Insurance Benefits (EI) or not, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit* will offer a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to four (4) months. Eligibility has been expanded. To find out if you are eligible or to apply go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html#apply>
- The one week waiting period for EI Sick Benefit has been waved
- The Canada Child Tax Benefit has been increased by up to \$300/child effective May 2020 for 2019-20
- The Government of Canada will provide up to \$3 billion in federal support to increase the wages of low-income essential workers (Province will decide how to distribute)
- The Special Goods and Services Tax Credit will provide a one-time special payment in early May
- Income Tax Filing due date has been deferred to June 1, 2020
- While schools are closed, parents with children up to 12 years of age can apply for a one-time payment * of \$200 per child and \$250 for those with special needs. For more information go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-families>
- The required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) has been reduced by 25% for 2020 to support Seniors
- Electricity prices for residential customers will be kept at the lowest rate, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day for 45 days

Cambridge Non-Profit Housing Corporation
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- The Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) * has expanded eligibility and is ensuring that electricity and natural gas services are not disconnected for nonpayment during the COVID-19 outbreak. For more information go to <https://www.energyplus.ca/en/residential/low-income-electricity-support-programs.aspx#Low-Income-Energy-Assistance-Program> (Cambridge) or <https://www.kwhydro.on.ca/en/residential/leap.asp> (Kitchener)
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan and interest accrual relief for students. No payments will be withdrawn for six months and no interest will accrue over this time.
- The Ontario Government has confirmed that it will double the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payment for low-income seniors to \$166 per month for individuals and \$332/month for couples for six months starting Apr.2020.
- The federal government announced that seniors who qualify for Old Age Security (OAS) will be eligible for a one-time, tax-free payment of \$300, and those eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) will get an extra \$200.

Food Support

House of Friendship

Address: 807 Guelph Street, Kitchener

Phone: 519-742-8327

Hours: Monday – Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Additional food distribution programs will be operating in the community please contact the House of Friendship for more information.

Salvation Army Family Services

Address: 75 Tillsley, Kitchener

Phone: 519-745-4215

Hours: Tuesday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Carizon Family and Community Services

Erb West Community Centre

Address: 45F Amos Ave, Kitchener

Hours: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Paulander Community Centre

Address: 60 Paulander Drive, Kitchener

Hours: 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

Nutrition for Learning

To ensure access of healthy food and snacks for children while schools are closed, Nutrition for Learning will be delivering food to various schools in Waterloo Region. For information on dates, times, and locations please visit: www.nutritionforlearning.ca/popupsnacks

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Community Support Connections (CSC)

CSC is currently accepting new applications for Meals on Wheels, which offers deliveries of hot and frozen meals. Application turn around is approximately 3 days. Please call 519-772-8787 to register. Please be advised that proof of income will be required.

House of Friendship Family Outreach Program

Outreach Workers can help families living on low income with children 17 and under access basic resources. For a list of locations and contacts, please visit:

<https://www.houseoffriendship.org/how-we-help/familyneighbourhood-supports/family-outreach-program/family-outreach-program-cambridge/>

Community Meals

Ray of Hope Community Centre

Address: 659 King Street East, Suite 100, Kitchener (rear entrance off Stirling Lane)

Phone: 519-578-8018

Hours: Meals:

Monday – Friday: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday: 12:00 p.m. (noon) – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

St. John's Kitchen

Address: 97 Victoria Street North, Kitchener

Phone: 519-745-8928

Hours: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (breakfast)

Monday – Friday: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (lunch)

Grocery Stores with Adjusted Hours

Seniors (60+) may shop at stores with adjusted hours that are just for them

Zehrs: 7:00am – 8:00am

Shoppers Drug Mart: 8:00am – 9:00am

Walmart: 7:00am – 8:00am Monday – Friday

Sobeys: 7:00am – 8:00am

Freshco: 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Farm Boy: 7:00 am- 8:00am

Additional Resources

Kids Help Line: 1-800-668-6868

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