

WORK CENTRAL AB

Financial Assistance Programs

Support Available for Albertans Facing Hardship

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Financial Assistance Programs in Alberta

Alberta offers several financial assistance programs for individuals and families facing hardship or supporting children. This guide covers the main programs - always confirm current amounts and eligibility directly through official sources, since rates and rules are updated periodically.

1. Alberta Child and Family Benefit (ACFB)

- A tax-free benefit for families with children under 18, paid quarterly on top of the federal Canada Child Benefit.
- For the current benefit year, the base component provides up to roughly \$1,499 for the first child, with additional amounts for further children, phasing out as family net income rises above approximately \$28,116.
- A working income component provides an additional amount for families with employment income above a minimum threshold.
- You remain eligible for the ACFB even if you also receive AISH, Income Support, or the Alberta child care subsidy - it doesn't reduce those other benefits.
- Filing a tax return is required to receive the ACFB, even if you owe no tax.

2. Income Support

Alberta Income Support provides financial help for individuals and families who don't have enough money to cover basic needs like food and shelter, while they work toward employment or address barriers preventing them from working. Amounts vary based on income, household size, and circumstances.

3. AISH and the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP)

- AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) provides financial and health benefits to eligible adults with a permanent, severe disability that prevents them from earning a living.
- ADAP is a newer, related program for individuals with disabilities that don't meet AISH's more severe threshold, also providing a core financial benefit alongside employment supports.
- Both programs provide health benefits (prescription drugs, dental, optical) alongside the core monthly financial benefit.
- Program rules and amounts have seen recent updates, including changes to how couples' benefits and child benefit add-ons are calculated - confirm current rates directly with Alberta Supports.

4. Emergency and Crisis Assistance

If You Need Help Right Now

Alberta Supports Contact Centre: 1-877-644-9992 for general inquiries about benefits and programs.

Emergency financial assistance for urgent basic needs is available 24/7 through Alberta Supports.

Local food banks and community organizations (see our Community Support Organizations guide) can help bridge gaps while a formal application is processed.

5. How to Apply

- Most programs are applied for through Alberta Supports, either online, by phone, or in person at a local office.
- Gather identification, proof of income, and documentation of your circumstances (medical documentation for AISH/ADAP, for example) before applying.
- A caseworker will review your application and may request additional information - respond promptly to avoid delays.

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Common Questions

Can I receive multiple programs at once? Yes, in many cases - for example, the ACFB stacks with AISH, Income Support, or the Alberta child care subsidy without reducing those benefits.

How long does it take to get approved? Processing times vary by program and individual circumstances - apply as early as possible and respond quickly to any requests for additional documentation.

Are these benefits taxable? Most, including AISH, ADAP, and the ACFB, are non-taxable - confirm the specific tax treatment of any program you're receiving when filing your return.

Financial Assistance Checklist

- ✓ Filed a tax return to ensure ACFB eligibility, if you have children
- ✓ Identified which program(s) may apply to your situation
- ✓ Gathered required documentation before applying
- ✓ Saved the Alberta Supports Contact Centre number for questions
- ✓ Explored community organizations for interim support while applications process

Build Your Financial Foundation With Work Central AB

See our Community Support Organizations guide for additional local support while navigating these programs. Visit [**workcentralab.ca/resources**](https://workcentralab.ca/resources).