

OW & ODSP Rates and OCB amounts as of July / August 2014

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) will go up from \$101 to \$109 per month starting July 2014. At the same time, OW and ODSP Basic Needs rates will go down for single parents on OW with children under 18 and people on ODSP with children between 13 and 17. However, there will be no reduction in the total amount of money they get from social assistance and the OCB. The reductions will be made on the July 31 ODSP cheque and the August 1 OW cheque.

Case Type	Before				After July 31 / Aug 1, 2014				
	OW	Basic Needs	Max ¹ Shelter	OCB	Total	Basic Needs	Max ¹ Shelter	OCB	Total
Single		\$250	\$376	\$0	\$626	\$250	\$376	\$0	\$626
Single Parent 1 child under 18		\$344	\$596	\$101	\$1,041	\$336	\$596	\$109	\$1,041
Single Parent 2 children under 18		\$344	\$648	\$202	\$1,194	\$336	\$648	\$218	\$1,202
Couple		\$458	\$596	\$0	\$1,054	\$458	\$596	\$0	\$1,054
Couple 1 child under 18		\$458	\$648	\$101	\$1,207	\$458	\$648	\$109	\$1,215
Couple 2 children under 18		\$458	\$702	\$202	\$1,362	\$458	\$702	\$218	\$1,378
ODSP									
Single		\$607	\$479	\$0	\$1,086	\$607	\$479	\$0	\$1,086
Single Parent 1 child under 13		\$750	\$753	\$101	\$1,604	\$750	\$753	\$109	\$1,612
Single Parent 1 child 13-17		\$759	\$753	\$101	\$1,613	\$751	\$753	\$109	\$1,613
Single Parent 2 children under 13		\$750	\$816	\$202	\$1,768	\$750	\$816	\$218	\$1,784
Single Parent 2 children (under/over)		\$759	\$816	\$202	\$1,777	\$751	\$816	\$218	\$1,785
Single Parent 2 children both 13-17		\$768	\$816	\$202	\$1,786	\$752	\$816	\$218	\$1,786
Couple ²		\$893	\$753	\$0	\$1,646	\$893	\$753	\$0	\$1,646
Couple 1 child under 13		\$893	\$816	\$101	\$1,810	\$893	\$816	\$109	\$1,818
Couple 1 child 13-17		\$902	\$816	\$101	\$1,819	\$894	\$816	\$109	\$1,819
Couple 2 children under 13		\$893	\$886	\$202	\$1,981	\$893	\$886	\$218	\$1,997
Couple 2 children (under/over)		\$902	\$886	\$202	\$1,990	\$894	\$886	\$218	\$1,998
Couple 2 children both 13-17		\$911	\$886	\$202	\$1,999	\$895	\$886	\$218	\$1,999

1. Shelter amounts are maximums; if actual shelter costs are lower, the lower amount will be paid.

2. All amounts for couples on ODSP in this chart are for couples where one person in the couple has a disability.

The provincial government calls this change “rate restructuring”, which is part of the implementation of the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB).

The OCB is a very important program to help low-income families in Ontario. It was started as a monthly benefit in July 2008 and goes to all eligible low-income families, both those who work at paid jobs and those who are on social assistance.

The OCB is helpful for all low-income families with children in Ontario. Having the OCB as a separate, income-tested benefit also means that parents on social assistance who are able to find a job and move off of OW or ODSP can still get benefit money for their children from the provincial government, as long as they qualify as low-income.

Part of the way the OCB works, however, is that benefit money for children is being moved out of OW and ODSP and into the OCB. This is why Basic Needs rates are being restructured.

Basic Needs rates are only being restructured for single parents on OW and people on ODSP who have children between the ages of 13 and 17. Single parents on OW with children under 18 will have \$8 per month taken off the Basic Needs portion of their OW cheque, which represents a reduction in what the Ministry calls the “sole support parent supplement”. All parents on ODSP (both single parents and couples with children) who have a child or children between 13-17 will have \$8 per month per child taken off the Basic Needs portion of their ODSP cheque, which is a reduction in what the Ministry calls the “age-related supplement for children aged 13-17”.

It is important to note that the total amount of money that people in these circumstances get from the combination of social assistance and the OCB will not go down.

At the time the OCB was introduced as a monthly benefit in 2008, ISAC and other advocates pressed the provincial government to make sure that parents on OW and ODSP would get the full benefit of the OCB. More details on OCB-related rate restructuring are available under point #3 in our information sheet on the last round of increases to OW & ODSP benefit rates. This sheet can be found at www.incomesecurity.org/documents/OWandODSPRatesandtheOCB.doc.

Note that the rates on page 1 of this fact sheet do not include the rates for couples on ODSP where both people have a disability. For these couples, a special “double disabled” rate of \$1,818 per month applies. The “double disabled” rate is the maximum amount that couples in this circumstance can be eligible for. However, if couples in this situation are eligible for other benefits, like the Special Diet Allowance or Northern Allowance / Remote Communities Allowance, those amounts are added on top of the double disabled rate. And if couples in this situation have a dependent child or children, the amounts and benefits that the child or children are eligible for are added on top of the double disabled rate. If you are in this situation, talk to your caseworker to find out what benefit amounts you may be eligible for, or consult ODSP Directive 6.1 at: www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcscs/social/directives/odsp/income_Support/6_1.pdf.