

Ontario Works Policy Directives

5.6 Federal and Provincial Benefits for Families with Children

Legislative Authority

Sections 7(1), 16(1), and 19(2) of the Act.

Sections 53(3), 53(3.1), 53(3.2), 54.1(1) and 54.1(2) of Regulation 134/98.

Audit Requirements

Random file reviews are completed to ensure that:

- all documents have been visually verified;
- overpayments are established where a recipient has received financial assistance that they were not entitled to as a result of a National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) payment or Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) payment that had not been properly adjusted by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA); and
- all visually verified documents have been documented in the SDMT or file system used by a First Nations delivery agent.

Application of Policy

The federal and provincial governments provide a number of financial benefits to assist families with children. Financial benefits provided by the federal government include the:

- Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB)
- Children's Special Allowance (CSA)
- Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB)
- Working Income Supplement (WIS)

Financial benefits provided by the provincial government include the:

- Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)
- Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families (OCCS)

All of these federal and provincial benefits are exempt as income when determining eligibility and budgetary requirements of a benefit unit.

Federal Benefits

Canada Child Tax Benefit

The CCTB is a tax-free monthly payment from the CRA to assist eligible families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18.

The CCTB consists of the Child Tax Benefit (CTB) and the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS).

The CTB is exempt as income when determining eligibility and budgetary requirements for a benefit unit. The maximum monthly amount of CTB available for families with children under the age of 18 (as of July 2008) is \$108.91 per child (plus an additional \$7.58 for the third and each subsequent child).

The NCBS is an additional payment for low-income families with children under the age of 18. The NCBS is exempt as income when determining eligibility and budgetary requirements for a benefit unit. The maximum monthly amount of NCBS available for families with children under the age of 18 (as of July 2008) is \$168.75 for the first child, \$149.33 for the second child and \$142 for the third and each subsequent child.

For detailed information regarding the CTB and NCBS, refer to the NCBS on the Net Guide.

CCTB Overpayments and Underpayments

CCTB overpayments or underpayments may occur during the period of time required by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to process entitlement adjustments caused by changes in family status and/or income tax assessments.

Any financial assistance adjustments necessary for a benefit unit caused by a CCTB overpayment or underpayment should be made according to the National Child Benefit 2006 Reference Manual.

Parents with Shared Custody

In situations of shared custody, a parent may not receive NCBS payments every month if parents are sharing the benefit ([see Directive #3.9: Dependent Children](#) for more information).

Children's Special Allowance

The CSA is a monthly payment that is made to a federal or provincial department or ministry, an agency, or an institution to assist with the costs of maintaining care for a child under the age of 18.

The CSA is an amount equivalent to the maximum basic amount of CCTB plus the NCBS. For eligible children, the CSA payment may also include the Child

Disability Benefit (DSB) and/or the UCCB. The CSA is considered exempt as income when determining eligibility and budgetary requirements for a benefit unit.

If an application for the CSA is received by CRA, payment of the CCTB is ceased.

Universal Child Care Benefit

The UCCB is a taxable benefit provided to parents with children under the age of six. The UCCB is automatically paid to families in receipt of the CCTB. The UCCB is exempt as income and allowable child care deductions are not reduced by the amount of the benefit.

Working Income Supplement and Loss Compensation

Payments received as loss compensation from the WIS, which was replaced by the NCBS in 1998, are considered exempt as income.

Provincial Benefits

Ontario Child Benefit

The OCB is a non-taxable, income-tested monthly benefit for families with children under age 18. The OCB is exempt as income when determining eligibility and budgetary requirements for a benefit unit. As of July 2008, the maximum monthly amount of OCB available for eligible families is \$50 per child.

Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families

The OCCS is a tax-free monthly payment to help with the costs of raising children under the age of seven. A family does not have to have a child in daycare to apply for the OCCS, but must have the appropriate income level or qualifying child care expenses.

The OCCS has been consolidated into the OCB effective July 2008. Currently, families whose OCCS entitlement exceeds their OCB payment will continue to receive a supplementary OCCS payment until their dependent child turns seven or the family is no longer entitled to the benefit.

Families with a child born on or after July 1, 2011 will not receive OCCS benefits. Supplementary OCCS benefits will be phased out completely by 2018.