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## Alberta Child Benefit (ACB)

Lower-income families with children may be eligible for the ACB to help provide a better quality of life for their children.

### Overview

The Alberta Child Benefit (ACB) provides direct financial assistance to lower-income families with children under 18 who have a family net income less than \$42,255 per year.

It is estimated that the ACB will provide \$175 million in benefits to families across the province in 2018 to 2019. Together with the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (AFETC), approximately \$328 million in combined benefits will be provided in 2018 to 2019. The ACB is refundable, meaning families receive it regardless of whether they owe provincial income taxes.

*Working families may also be eligible for the enhanced [AFETC](#).*

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the ACB, you must:

- be a parent of 1 or more children under the age of 18
- have a family net income of less than \$42,255 per year
- be a resident of Alberta for at least 1 month prior to receiving the benefit
- file a tax return

If you receive AISH, Income Support, and the child care subsidy you are also eligible to receive the ACB. Receiving ACB will not affect your eligibility for these programs.

[Free tax clinics](#) are available to prepare tax returns for eligible lower-income Albertans.

## How to apply

You're automatically considered for the ACB when you file your annual tax return and if you already receive the federal government's Canada Child Benefit. No further action is required.

You can apply for the Canada Child Benefit if you meet the eligibility criteria and:

- there's a change in your household (birth, adoption or marriage), or
- you're a new Canadian (refugee claimants, foreign workers, international students and permanent residents)

[Apply for Canada Child Benefit](#)

## Payments

The ACB program is administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) on the province's behalf.

ACB payments will be mailed or direct deposited by CRA in as many as 4 installments, depending on how much you are eligible to receive. Payments are made in:

- August
- November
- February
- May

If you're eligible for amounts below \$10 in a given quarter then your payments could be consolidated and paid less frequently.

## What you get

The amount your family receives under the ACB will depend on your income level and how many children you have who are under 18.

Families with net income of up to \$26,141 will receive the maximum benefits under the ACB. Benefits begin to phase out if you earn more than this, and will be fully phased out once your family net income reaches \$42,255.

- \$1,128 for one child
- \$2,820 maximum for families with 4 or more children

Use the [child and family benefits calculator](#) to find out how much you may be entitled to. Please note, you will need your income tax return to enter specific amounts.

## Maximum benefit amounts

The table below displays the maximum benefit amounts for a working family receiving both the ACB and AFETC.

Number of children	ACB (max.)	AFETC (max.)
1 child	\$1,128	\$783
2 children	\$1,692	\$1,495
3 children	\$2,256	\$1,922
4 or more children	\$2,820	\$2,064

## Changes in household status

The ACB is paid in the second month of each 3-month eligibility period. If your household's status changes during the benefit period, your eligibility for the benefit may change. For example:

- if you have another child, your household may qualify for a greater benefit than you received
- if your family leaves Alberta, you may have to return some of the money received for the months you were not living in the province

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) reassesses eligibility on a regular basis, as updated household information is received.

- If your household qualifies for a greater benefit than what was originally paid out, the CRA will issue an additional payment for the difference.
- If your household qualifies for a smaller benefit, or no benefit, you will receive a letter from CRA indicating that any amount received over your entitlement will have to be returned. For information on how to return amounts owing, contact the CRA at [1-800-959-2809](tel:1-800-959-2809).

### ***If a child dies***

*For households that receive a benefit for a child who has died, the amounts owing will be forgiven and the benefit will not have to be returned.*

*This applies to all payments received from January 1, 2017 onwards.*

## **Resources**

- [Alberta Child Benefit Poster](#) (PDF, 3 MB)
- [Alberta Child Benefit Q&A](#) (PDF, 388 KB)

## **Contact**

Canada Revenue Agency

Toll free: [1-800-959-2809](tel:1-800-959-2809)

For information about other social supports in Alberta, call Alberta Supports at [1-877-644-9992](tel:1-877-644-9992).

## **Related**

- [Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit \(AFETC\)](#)
- [Alberta Adult Health Benefit](#)
- [Alberta Child Health Benefit](#)

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