

Support for the Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Sectors

January 10, 2022

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

- The \$20M **Reconnect Ontario 2022** supports festivals and events that have a tourism economic impact and motivate visitors to rediscover Ontario, reconnect people with local experiences and increase tourism spending. The application window is open, and **applications are due by February 2, 2022.**
- The 2022-23 **Ontario Sport Hosting Program** provides project-based funding to help applicants deliver major national and international amateur sport events in Ontario. The application window is open, and **applications are due January 10, 2022.**
- The **Ontario Tourism Recovery Program (OTRP)** supports eligible Ontario-based, tourism businesses in the for-profit attractions and accommodations sectors that have been hardest hit by COVID-19. OTRP is a competitive, application-based grant program supporting private sector tourism businesses that are significant drivers to their regional tourism economies. The application window is now closed and funding notifications are expected in the coming weeks.
- The **Community Building Fund – Capital** (delivered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation) provides support for non-profits, Indigenous communities and Municipalities in the community sport and recreation sectors. The fund helps strengthen communities by supporting the repair, renovation or retrofitting of existing sport and recreation facilities or COVID-19 related public health requirements now that support future preparedness. The application window is now closed and funding notifications are expected in the very near future.

Ministry of Finance

Expanding Rebates for Property Tax and Energy Costs

- To support businesses that are most impacted by provincial public health measures, the government is expanding the new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program (OBCRP).
- The new OBCRP program will support eligible businesses that are required to close or reduce capacity due to recently announced public health measures.
- Eligible businesses will receive rebate payments for a portion of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to capacity limits. The rebate amount will be 50 per cent up to 100 per cent of these costs depending on the degree to which the business is subject to public health restrictions.
 - Eligible businesses required to reduce capacity to 50 per cent, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50 per cent of their property tax and energy costs.
 - Eligible businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs.

The Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program was [announced](#) on December 22, 2021. Under the program, eligible businesses were to receive rebate payments equivalent to 50 per cent of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to the capacity limits at the time.

Overview of the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program

Eligibility

- A full list of eligible business types will be provided prior to the launch of the application portal.

Applications Process

- Online applications for this program will open on January 18, with payments to eligible businesses provided retroactive to December 19, 2021.
- Businesses will be required to submit documentation including property tax and energy bills as part of the application process.

Cash-flow Supports for Businesses Through Tax Deferrals

Six-month Interest- and Penalty-free Period

- Effective January 1, 2022, the province is also providing additional support to help improve cash flows for Ontario businesses by providing a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes.
- This measure will provide up to \$7.5 billion in relief to help approximately 80,000 Ontario businesses. This will support businesses now, while capacity and operating restrictions are in place, and provide the flexibility Ontario businesses will need for long-term planning.

Businesses have the option to delay payments on the following provincial taxes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employer Health Tax• Beer, Wine & Spirits Taxes• Tobacco Tax• Insurance Premium Tax• Fuel Tax | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Fuel Tax Agreement• Gas Tax• Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts & Benefit Plans• Mining Tax• Race Tracks Tax |
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Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant: In brief

Who gets it?

Businesses with less than 100 employees
ordered to close indoor operations January 5

How much do they get?

\$10,000

When can businesses apply?

Qualified OSBSG recipients: pre-screened
late-January

New applicants: **early February**

How soon could they see the money?

Qualified OSBSG recipients: **early February**

New applicants: two weeks after approval
(**late-February**)

Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant

Ontario will offer flat-rate grants of **\$10,000** to eligible small business owners impacted by the province's move to a modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen.

The government recognizes that small businesses required to close indoor operations due to necessary provincial health measures will **need additional help**.

Small business owners can use this grant however makes the most sense for them: fixed costs, employee wages, maintaining their inventory.

Who's eligible? Businesses that:

- Were ordered to close indoor operations by the move to the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen on January 5, 2022.
- Have less than 100 employees at the enterprise level; and
- Can be expected to experience a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline as a result of the restrictions. This will be measured by comparing December 2021 with January 2022 revenues. New businesses established up to December 2021 are also eligible.

Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant

Eligibility will be assessed in **two streams** to ensure funds are delivered quickly and efficiently.

Stream One: Eligible businesses that previously qualified under the Small Business Support Grant won't need to apply. Instead, they'll receive an email asking them to confirm their continued eligibility:

- Required to close January 5
- Still operational as of January 14th
- Still have less than 100 employees

Stream Two: Newly formed businesses or businesses that did not previously apply for OSBSG, or businesses that were previously ineligible need to provide information such as:

- A Master Business Licence
- Information about the business including sector, location, affiliations, number of employees
- Banking information
- Supporting documentation to demonstrate a 20% or greater revenue decline through revenue for December 2021 and revenue for January 2022

Funding application launches February, 2022

Examples of Eligible Small Business Types

- Restaurants and bars
- Facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities (incl. fitness centres and gyms)
- Racing venues, casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments
- Meeting or event spaces
- Tour and guide services
- Performing arts and cinemas,
- Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions
- Conference centres and convention centres
- Driving instruction for individuals
- Before- and after-school programs

Ministry of Energy

Ministry of Energy Initiative: Off-Peak Time-of-Use (TOU) Rate

- On January 7th, 2022, Ontario announced plans to temporarily change the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) rates to the off-peak rate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for a 21-day period from January 18, 2022 to February 7, 2022.
- RPP time-of-use and tiered customers will benefit from the low off-peak rate, which is less than half the on-peak rate and significantly less than the mid-peak rate.
- The rate will be implemented on January 18, 2022 to provide Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) with the necessary time to ensure a seamless experience for customers on both time-of-use and tiered rate plans.
- Customers do not need to apply for this rate change. It will be automatically applied to customer bills by their LDC.
- This measure is estimated to provide \$81M in support to households, small businesses and farms.

Summary: Rate Changes

	TOU Rates			Tiered Rates	
Rate Period / Tiers	On-Peak (7am-11am, 5pm-7pm)	Mid-Peak (11am-5pm)	Off-Peak (7pm-7am)	Tier 1 (up to 1000kWh)	Tier 2 (beyond 1000kWh)
Current Rate (¢ per kWh)	17.0	11.3	8.2	9.8	11.5
Temporary Rate (¢ per kWh)	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2

Federal Programs

Federal Programs

Individuals

- [Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit](#) – provides temporary income support to employed and self-employed people who cannot work due to a COVID-19 lockdown.
- [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit](#) – provides income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they are sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19.
- [Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit](#) – provides income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care.

Businesses

- [Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program](#) – provides support through wage and rent subsidies to select tourism and hospitality businesses still facing pandemic related challenges, with a subsidy rate of up to 75%.
- [Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program](#) – provides support through wage and rent subsidies to other businesses that have faced deep losses, with a subsidy rate of up to 50%.
- [Local Lockdown Program](#) – provides businesses that face temporary new local lockdowns with up to the maximum amount available through wage and rent subsidy programs.
- [Canada Recovery Hiring Program](#) – provides a subsidy to cover part of a business' wages as they hire new employees and increase existing employees' wages or hours.
- [Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program](#) (HASCAP) – provides businesses heavily impacted by COVID-19, access guaranteed, low-interest loans of \$25,000 to \$1 million to cover operational cash flow needs.
- [Tourism Relief Fund](#) – supports tourism businesses and organizations to adapt their operations to meet public health requirements while investing in products and services to facilitate their future growth.

Thank you