

Subject: Treatment of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit as Income

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Government of Canada is providing the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to eligible Canadians who have stopped working due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERB provides a payment of \$500 per week for up to 16 weeks.

**CERB Payments as Income**

Under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) General Regulation, Schedule 1.1, section 1(l) of Table 1, the Minister has exercised her authority to partially exempt the CERB payment when it is received by clients and/or their spouses.

As per [Ministerial Order 2020-017](#), the CERB will receive the same income exemption as income received under AISH General Regulation, Schedule 1.1, sections 1(4)(a)(i) and 1(4)(b)(i), and Table 2 and Table 3.

When received by a client, CERB payments are combined with the client's passive business income, if any, before applying the exemption. See the [Passive Business Income](#) policy for more information.

When received by a client's spouse, CERB payments are combined with the spouse's pension income, if any, before applying the exemption. See the [Pension Income](#) policy for more information.

**Maximum CERB Exemptions:**

	Fully Exempt	25% Exempt
Single	Up to \$300	Remaining amount
Family (client with spouse and/or dependents)	Up to \$875	Remaining amount

These are the maximum exemptions. The actual exemption amount will depend on other sources of income received by the client and/or their spouse.

**Retroactive Payment of CERB**

Some CERB payments may be received by a client retroactively. The CERB income should be attributed to the period of assistance for which it was intended.

Overpayment policies may apply.

**INTENT:**

To ensure that AISH program policy accurately reflects the treatment of CERB payments.

**POLICY:**

The following policies and tools have been updated:

- [Income Policy](#)
  - [AISH Categories Table](#)
  - [Income Type Exemption Table](#)
- [Pension Income](#)
- [Passive Business Income](#)