

Subject: **Treatment of Canada Recovery Benefits**

Number: AISH-Program-2021-002

Date Issued: March 3, 2021

Effective Date: March 3, 2021

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Distribution: **Community and Social Services**
Employment and Financial Services
AISH Program Policy Update Subscribers

BACKGROUND:

Canada Recovery Benefits (CRB) are a federal financial support for persons directly affected by COVID-19 who are not entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. All three CRB payment types are commonly referred to as “CRB Income”.

Individuals can receive one of the three CRB payment types available between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021, including the:

- Canada Recovery Benefit (\$500/week, 26-week maximum),
- Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (\$500/week, 2-week maximum), or
- Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (\$500/week, 26-week maximum).

CRB Income is Fully Exempt – September 27, 2020 to March 31, 2021

The Minister has exercised her authority to temporarily provide a full exemption on CRB income, under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) General Regulation, Schedule 1.1, Table 1, section 1(l).

[Ministerial Order 2021-006](#) allows for a full exemption on CRB income received by an existing AISH client and/or their cohabiting partner.

- This exemption only applies to CRB payments intended as income for the eligibility periods between September 27, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

Clients with CRB payments that correspond to the periods noted above, remain eligible for the AISH program, without any deductions to their monthly benefits.

NOTE: The temporary exemption on CRB income does *not* apply to AISH applicants and their cohabiting partners when determining initial financial eligibility for the AISH program.

Starting April 1, the AISH program resumes standard practice and treats CRB payments in the same manner as EI benefits.

Overpayments that Result from CRB Income

An abbreviated process has been put in place for overpayments that result from CRB income.

- All levels of delegation (worker, supervisor, manager) have the authority to assess and review overpayments related to CRB income.
- Clients who are assessed an overpayment due to CRB will receive one letter to consolidate information about the assessment of the overpayment, the requirement to repay duplicate assistance and next steps to follow.

INTENT:

To ensure AISH program policy accurately reflects the treatment of CRB payments, as well as the process for managing CRB-related overpayments.

POLICY:

The following policies have been updated:

- [Income Policy](#)
- [Pension Income](#)
- [Notice of Overpayment](#)
- [Overpayments as a Result of Retroactive Payments](#)

The [Income Type Exemption Table](#) in the [Income](#) policy section has been updated to include information about CRB payments.