

Subject: **Treatment of Canada Recovery Benefits**

Number: AISH-Program-2021-005

Date Issued: May 3, 2021

Effective Date: May 3, 2021

Issuer: Stephen Gauk  
Executive Director  
Income Services Branch

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 who do not qualify for Employment Insurance, but who have lost work or had their earnings reduced because of the pandemic. Eligible persons can receive one of the following CRB payment types:

- Canada Recovery Benefit
- Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit
- Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit

The exemption on CRB income has been extended to June 30, 2021, under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program. By extending this exemption, the Government of Alberta recognizes the ongoing costs and pressures of the pandemic faced by vulnerable Albertans, as we move forward with vaccinations.

**CRB Income is Fully Exempt – September 27, 2020 to June 30, 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).

This exemption only applies to CRB payments intended as income for the eligibility periods between September 27, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

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 July 1, 2021, 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.