

# Income Support

## Get help while you wait for Employment Insurance

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### Get help now

Employment Insurance (EI) benefits are provided by the Government of Canada. When you apply, it may take time to receive a decision and get your first payment.

If you need help now with food, rent or other basic needs, you can apply to the Government of Alberta's Income Support program while you wait for a decision on your EI claim. Income Support eligibility

To be eligible for Income Support, you must meet certain criteria, which is available online at <https://hs.alberta.ca/AWOnline/IS/4747.html>

Income Support is issued one month at a time. Your eligibility will be reviewed in person each month until a decision has been made on your EI claim.

### Requirement to repay

Your EI benefits may start when you are receiving Income Support, or you may receive retroactive EI payments for a time when you were receiving Income Support

You must repay the Alberta Government for any weeks you receive **both** Income Support and EI benefits.

You must sign an Assignment of Benefits form, which is an agreement to repay Income Support benefits for any weeks you receive both Income Support and EI.

### How repayment works

If necessary, a weekly deduction will be taken directly from your EI benefits until the amount of Income Support you owe is paid back.

The weekly deduction amount varies from person to person, but will not leave you with less than the Minimum Weekly Living Allowance recorded on your Assignment of Benefits form.

- For example, if your EI benefit is \$200 and your Minimum Weekly Living Allowance is \$180, \$20 will be automatically deducted from your EI payment until the amount of Income Support you owe is paid back.

Deductions will not occur if your EI benefits are below the Minimum Weekly Living Allowance. Alternative arrangements can be made to repay if your EI benefits are below the Minimum Weekly Living Allowance.

### Continuing with Income Support

Depending on the amount of EI benefits you qualify for, you may be eligible for additional financial support through the Income Support program.

#### More Information

If you have questions about the Income Support program, contact Alberta Supports at 1-877-644-9992.

If you have questions about Employment Insurance, contact Service Canada at 1-800-206-7218.