

COVID-19 Government Programs

Current as of May 27, 2020

Note: Government response to the COVID-19 Pandemic is evolving and the information summarized here is subject to change at any time. Please consult with the appropriate federal and provincial government websites for the most up-to-date information.

Provincial Government Programs

Nova Scotia

Individual

- Worker Emergency Bridge Fund
  - 18 years of old, earned between \$5,000 and \$34,000 last year, do not qualify for EI
  - For self employed workers or anyone who doesn't qualify for EI, one time \$1,000 payment per person
- Every individual and family member on income assistance will receive an additional \$50 starting Friday, 20 March. People do not need to apply.
- \$1M to help Feed Nova Scotia purchase food and hire more staff, and \$55,000 to support 12 smaller community food banks.
- Government is partnering with Telus to provide 100 phones and calling plans to the most vulnerable Department of Community Services clients who have no other means of communication, and who may be self-isolated and alone.
- \$200,000 to support transition houses and other organizations that serve vulnerable women and children.
- Nova Scotia Student Loan payments are suspended until 30 September 2020. You don't need to make any payments, and your loans won't accrue interest. The suspension is automatic – you don't need to apply.
- \$1.36 million for prepared meal delivery services (like Meals on Wheels and VON's Frozen Favorites) to help hire staff, buy food and make meal deliveries. \$1 million for United Way's Atlantic Compassion Fund to help vulnerable families and youth \$400,000 for shelters, soup kitchens and other service organizations to help those experiencing homelessness. \$180,000 for the Seniors' Safety Program to help vulnerable older Nova Scotians. \$60,000 for Community Links to help vulnerable older Nova Scotians

Business

- Commercial rent deferral (deferral agreement must be in place before April 1st, 2020)
  - If you're deferring rent because your tenant's business is shut down or significantly restricted by the Health Protection Act order, you could be eligible for coverage (up to a maximum of \$50,000 per landlord and \$15,000 per tenant) if you can't recover the deferred rent.
- Small Business Credit and Support Program
  - Payroll must be under \$20,000 in 2019 and have decline of > 15% in March or > 30% in April, May or June compared to the same period in 2019
  - Get access to \$25,000 loan, a one time grant of \$1,500 and a \$1,500 voucher to seek advice for business support
- (Applications closed) Small Business Impact Grant
  - Eligible small businesses will receive and grant of 15% of their revenue from sales from April 2019 or February 2020, up to \$5,000. Can be used for any purpose
- Government will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans
- Government will defer payments until June 30 for small business renewal fees, including business registration renewal fees and workers compensation premiums
- Small businesses which do business with the government will be paid within five days instead of the standard 30 days
- NS is providing \$15M as an incentive to providers to speed up projects under the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative and complete them as soon as possible

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