

# Government Alert: Alberta



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Although we strive to provide accurate, relevant and timely information, there is no guarantee that the information will continue to be accurate in the future. Government programs, and other programs available to small businesses, can change daily. The information we provide you through this website is for educational and informational purposes only. For advice that pertains to your unique business situation, please get in touch with us at 1.800.265.1002 or email at [fbcc@fbcc.ca](mailto:fbcc@fbcc.ca)

Read more on government programs, tools, insights and advice on how to navigate your business through COVID-19 on [FBC's online COVID Resource Centre](#)

SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
BUSINESS <b>Alberta's "Open for Summer" Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Open for Summer</a> is a 3-stage roadmap to help Albertans understand how restrictions will be eased throughout June and July to culminate in a fully open province for the summer. It outlines the sectors that will see restriction changes at each step based on vaccination benchmarks.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stage 3 reopening is starting July 1 as Alberta reached the 70% immunization rate of eligible Albertans receiving at least one COVID-19 vaccination dose.</li><li>All businesses will be allowed to open and all restrictions will be lifted.</li><li>The mask mandate will be lifted, but masking may still be required in specific circumstances.</li></ul>

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SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
<p>BUSINESS Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers financial assistance to Alberta organizations (businesses, cooperatives and non-profits) that were ordered to close or curtail operations, and that experienced a revenue reduction of at least 30%, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Spring application period opened April 23 for businesses affected by public health measures from April and May 2021</li> <li>• <b>Applications accepted until June 30, 2021</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Relaunch Grant will provide:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Up to \$350 million in funding to businesses that were impacted by spring 2021 public health measures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• These funds can be used for implementing measures to minimize the risk of virus transmission (physical barriers, personal protective equipment, and disinfecting supplies), rent, employee wages or replacing inventory.</li> <li>• The grant is a taxable benefit and must be declared on your tax returns.</li> <li>• Funding:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Organizations that commenced operations on or before February 29, 2020, must demonstrate a year-over-year revenue reduction of 30% comparing a month between November 2019 and May 2020 to the same month in the following year.</li> <li>○ New organizations that commenced operations between March 1, 2020, and April 30, 2021, must demonstrate a month-over-month revenue reduction of 30% when comparing a month between March 2020 and April 2021 to a month between November 2020 and May 2021.</li> <li>○ Applicants can choose any month between the stated times to maximize their benefit payment and meet the required 30% revenue reduction.</li> <li>○ When determining the revenue amount for the chosen months, in addition to sales revenue applicants must also include amounts received from the permitted COVID-19 support programs listed in the Eligibility Criteria. Amounts received from other supports must be prorated and added to the appropriate revenue month used in the application.</li> <li>○ The spring 2021 payment is calculated as 15% of the eligible organization's revenue from the chosen month to a maximum of \$10,000.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Eligibility for Alberta businesses co-ops and non-profits               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Must be a legal entity from the list below registered and in good standing in Alberta of April 30, 2021:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ corporation registered under the Business Corporations Act (Alberta)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ partnership registered under the Partnership Act (Alberta)</li> <li>▪ sole proprietor with a trade name registered under the Partnership Act (Alberta)</li> <li>▪ unregistered sole proprietor with sufficient documentation to demonstrate the existence of the organization's operations</li> <li>▪ corporation incorporated under a special act or a private act of the Alberta legislature</li> <li>▪ non-profit registered under a special act or a private act of the Alberta legislature</li> <li>▪ non-profit registered under part 9 of the Companies Act (Alberta)</li> <li>▪ society registered under the Societies Act (Alberta) or Agricultural Societies Act (Alberta)</li> <li>▪ cooperative registered under the Cooperatives Act (Alberta)</li> <li>○ Maintain a permanent establishment in Alberta</li> <li>○ Be carrying on business/operations or were eligible to carry on business/operations in Alberta as of April 30, 2021.</li> <li>○ Have less than 500 employees (full-time, part-time, contract)</li> <li>○ Have been ordered to temporarily close or curtail operations through a COVID-19 public health order from April and/or May 2021.</li> <li>○ Have experienced a reduction in revenue of at least 30% as a result of the COVID-19 public health orders.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrating revenue reductions vary based on the dates a business commenced operations or if the business operates seasonally. Refer to <a href="#">Alberta Relaunch Grant site</a> for full details</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Continued next page</i></p>
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SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers financial assistance to Alberta organizations (businesses, cooperatives and non-profits) that</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Continued from previous page</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are open or plan to reopen as public health orders are lifted through Alberta's phased relaunch.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant (continued)

- were ordered to close or curtail operations, and that experienced a revenue reduction of at least 30%, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Spring application period opened April 23 for businesses affected by public health measures from April and May 2021.
- **Applications accepted until June 30, 2021.**
- May have received payments, grants, or amounts directly from other assistance programs, including but not limited to
  - Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)
  - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
  - Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)
  - [Full list available online](#)
- Complete [Program Guidelines](#) (PDF Updated May 2021)
- How to apply (refer to [Application Companion Guide](#) – PDF):
- Applications can be submitted online through the [application portal](#)
  - In order to access the application portal, applicants must have a [My Alberta Digital ID \(MADI\) user account](#) with a secure login name and password.
- The program aims to process applications and issue payments within 14 business days following submission.
  - Application status will be displayed on the main page of the [application portal](#) (log in to view status)
- Approved applicants will receive funds via Electronic Fund Transfer directly into their bank account.
- Please ensure the banking information provided at the time of application is accurate to avoid payment delays.
- For questions or to connect with Small and Medium Enterprise Support program staff, email: [SMErelaunch.program@gov.ab.ca](mailto:SMErelaunch.program@gov.ab.ca)
- [FBC Summary and Details](#)

## SUBJECT

## SUMMARY

## PROGRAM DETAILS

<p>BUSINESS Enhanced COVID-19 Business Benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit will provide payments of up to \$10,000 to eligible small and medium businesses most affected by the pandemic and ongoing public health restrictions.</li> <li>• <b>UPDATE: Reopening of Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant program provided this additional benefit.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The benefit will provide funding to businesses that have experienced a revenue reduction of at least 60%.</li> <li>• Payments will be calculated based on 15% of the eligible business's monthly revenue, up to a maximum of \$10,000</li> <li>• To be eligible for the Enhanced COVID-19 Business Benefit, applicants must:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ be a business, cooperative or non-profit organizations with fewer than 500 employees</li> <li>○ demonstrate a revenue reduction of at least 60%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ report the levels of provincial and federal support received, to ensure no more than 80% of revenue was covered by these supports</li> <li>● Application details will be provided closer to launch date</li> <li>● Government of Alberta news release can be <a href="#">accessed online</a></li> </ul>
BUSINESS WCB Premium Deferral Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Small, medium, and large private sector employers can defer WCB premium payments until 2021.</li> <li>● <b>UPDATE: Deferred premiums were due March 1, 2021.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All private sector employers will have their 2020 WCB premiums deferred to 2021.</li> <li>● When invoicing for 2020 premiums is resumed in 2021, small- and medium-sized private sector employers will have 50 per cent of their 2020 premiums waived.</li> <li>● No interest charges will apply on unpaid balances for 2020.</li> <li>● Payments already made towards 2020 premiums will be automatically refunded to employers (there is no need to apply).</li> <li>● More information can be found on <a href="#">WCB Alberta online</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">WCB Fact Sheet for Employers</a></li> </ul>

SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
BUSINESS INDIVIDUAL Utility Payment Deferral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Residential, farm and small commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments for the next 90 days to ensure no one will be cut off, regardless of the service provider.</li> <li>● <b>This program ended June 18, 2020. See below for information on deferral repayment.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This program ran from March 18, 2020 to June 18, 2020</li> <li>● <b>Details provided for reference only:</b></li> <li>● You are eligible if you are experiencing financial hardship and cannot make your regular payments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, you:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ have been diagnosed with COVID-19</li> <li>○ have been directed by health authorities to self-isolate</li> <li>○ have lost your job</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ are taking care of a family member</li> <li>• Albertans in arrears or behind in payments before the deferral program launched on March 18 are also eligible for a deferral</li> <li>• Call your utility provider directly to arrange for a 90-day deferral on all payments. You will need your account information.</li> <li>• After June 19, the agreed upon repayment plan will be implemented</li> <li>• In situations where rent and utilities are combined, contact your landlord directly to discuss the circumstances</li> <li>• <a href="#">FBC Summary and Details</a></li> </ul>
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BUSINESS  
INDIVIDUAL  
Utility Payment Deferral  
Repayment information

- Residential, farm and small commercial customers that deferred their utility payments and continue to experience financial hardship related to COVID-19 will have until June 18, 2021 to repay their deferred payments.

- Consumers and businesses in the utility deferral payment program will have until June 18, 2021 to repay their deferred payments.
- Default repayment plan is 12 equal monthly installments
- Participants may begin to see the first of these instalments on their next bill.
- If this repayment plan does not work with your financial situation, you can contact your utility provider to discuss an alternate repayment plan.
- Provided you meet the terms of your repayment plan, you will not pay interest on deferred payments.
- If you were in arrears on payments before the deferral program, any outstanding utility charges will still need to be repaid.
- If you require support negotiating a repayment plan that fits your budget or in resolving any service or billing issues, contact the [Utilities Consumer Advocate](#).

## SUBJECT

## SUMMARY

## PROGRAM DETAILS

INDIVIDUAL  
Working Parents Benefit

- To support working parents who need and have paid for childcare so they can continue working during the pandemic, the Alberta government is providing the Working Parents Benefit, a one-time payment of \$561 per child.
- **Applications closed on March 31, 2021**

- This program ended on March 31, 2021
- **Details provided for reference only:**
- You may be eligible to apply if:
  - you had a household income of \$100,000 or less in the 2020 tax year
  - you are a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident living in Alberta

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- you are the parent or legal guardian of a child who was born on or after February 29, 2008
- you paid \$561 per child or more for 3 months of childcare between April 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 (receipts required)
- the child care you paid for was provided by (receipts, bills or invoices required) someone other than the child's father or mother, your spouse or common law partner, or someone who is dependent on you or dependent on your spouse or common law partner ([see factsheet for details](#))
- you required the child care above because you were working or attending school at a [designated educational institution](#)
- Only one parent or legal guardian may apply for each child. In cases where both parents or guardians apply and meet the eligibility criteria, the payment will be made to the first applicant.
- The benefit is not taxable. However, if you or your partner claim childcare expense deduction on your tax return, you are required to deduct the Working Parents Benefit you received from the childcare expenses you are claiming in your 2020 income tax return
- How to apply:
  - Applicants will need a [MyAlberta Digital ID](#) account
  - Applications can be submitted online through the [Working Parents Benefit Portal](#)
  - As of March 6, 2021, Albertans from any region may submit their application (until closing date of March 31, 2021)
  - It may take up to 30 business days for your application to be processed.

SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
INDIVIDUAL Critical Worker Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● A one-time payment of \$1,200 to recognize Alberta's critical workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li><li>● It is available to workers in the public healthcare, social services, education sectors and those in the private</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● This program ended on March 19, 2021</li><li>● <b>Details provided for reference only:</b></li><li>● Eligible workers will receive a \$1,200 benefit distributed through their employers.</li></ul>

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	<p>sector who deliver critical basic services to Albertans, or support food and medical supply chains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The application period closed on March 19, 2021.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility varies based on sector. Please review eligibility and <a href="#">application requirements online</a>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Government of Alberta is working directly with healthcare, social services, and education sector employers to distribute the benefit to eligible workers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Private sector employers must apply on behalf of their eligible employees. Private sector employees must:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ earn \$25 per hour or less</li> <li>○ have worked at least 300 hours between the period of October 12, 2020 and January 31, 2021</li> <li>○ be located and working in Alberta</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Workers listed in the following private sectors are eligible. Please <a href="#">review specific eligibility requirements by sector online</a>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Retail – grocery, pharmacy and gas</li> <li>○ Food manufacturing</li> <li>○ Truck transportation of food and medical supplies</li> <li>○ Warehouse and storage of food and medical supplies</li> <li>○ Private health clinics</li> <li>○ Private sector workers in First Nations communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Included in the list of private sector occupations not eligible to receive the benefit are:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ food take-out delivery workers</li> <li>○ post office workers</li> <li>○ bicycle messengers</li> <li>○ business owners, contractors, self-employed persons and sole proprietors</li> <li>○ those working in liquor stores and hardware stores</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Private Sector Application Portal</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Application Portal Guide</a> (PDF)</li> <li>• In order to access the application portal, you must have a <a href="#">MyAlberta Digital Business ID (MADI-B)</a></li> </ul>
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<p>BUSINESS Rapid Testing Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employers and service providers can apply to implement a rapid COVID-19 testing program for their organization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employers and service providers can apply to receive free rapid test kits for use in their organization's COVID-19 screening program.</li> <li>Rapid testing screening programs can identify pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic cases – people who don't know they're infected with COVID-19 – so they can be isolated early to stop the spread.</li> <li>The rapid testing program is open to any public, private or not-for-profit employer or service provider with an approved COVID-19 screening program.</li> <li>The application process will prioritize businesses or organizations involved with:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vulnerable populations</li> <li>high-risk settings and workplaces</li> <li>essential services</li> <li>sectors that support reopening of economic and social activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>Rapid test kits are provided free of cost to successful applicants. However, organizations are responsible for all costs related to their screening programs and assume all medical and legal responsibilities associated with them.</li> <li>Successful applicants must also ensure proper protocols are in place for COVID-19 screening, testing and reporting.</li> <li>Application:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the <a href="#">program overview</a></li> <li>Develop a screening program plan</li> <li>Complete the <a href="#">request form</a></li> <li>Submit application to <a href="mailto:rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca">rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>If approved, you will be contacted approximately one week (pending volume) after your submission is received with information on the distribution of your rapid testing kits.</li> <li>If approved, you will be contacted approximately one week (pending volume) after your submission is received with information on the distribution of your rapid testing kits.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SUBJECT</b></p>	<p><b>SUMMARY</b></p>	<p><b>PROGRAM DETAILS</b></p>

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<p>BUSINESS Alberta Jobs Now program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Alberta Jobs Now program will provide up to \$370 million to help private and non-profit businesses with job supports to get thousands of Albertans back to work.</li><li>• Employers can apply for funding to offset the cost of hiring and training unemployed or underemployed Albertans in new or vacant positions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private sector businesses and non-profit organizations across all industries can apply for funding to reduce the costs of hiring and training unemployed or underemployed Albertans. Additional funding is available for hiring persons with disabilities.</li><li>• Employers can:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ apply for a grant to offset salary or training costs, or both, equal to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 25% of a new hire's salary up to \$25,000 per employee</li><li>▪ 37.5% of the new hire's salary up to \$37,500 per employee with a disability</li></ul></li><li>○ apply for up to 20 full-time new hires per intake period:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ first intake: May 20 to August 31, 2021</li><li>▪ second intake: September 15 to December 31, 2021</li><li>▪ third intake: to be announced at a later date</li></ul></li><li>○ choose to have payments issued in 1 or 2 payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 1 payment: up to 100% of the grant after new hires have been employed for 52 weeks</li><li>▪ 2 payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ half of the eligible grant paid when the new hires have been employed for 3 months</li><li>▪ the other half paid when the new hires have been employed for 52 weeks</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Private sector businesses and non-profit organizations in Alberta can apply.</li><li>• Applications will be assessed on a first come, first served basis.</li><li>• <a href="#">Alberta Jobs Now Application Portal</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Alberta Jobs Now Application Guidelines</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Application Checklist</a></li><li>• In order to access the application portal, you must have a <a href="#">MyAlberta Digital Business ID (MADI-B)</a></li></ul>
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