

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@fbc.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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta has declared a state of public health emergency.• Business can participate in the Restrictions Exemption Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of September 20, in-scope businesses, entities and events must follow one of these 2 options:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Implement the Restrictions Exemption Program requiring proof of vaccination or negative test result, plus mandatory masking, to continue operating as usual, or○ Comply with all public health restrictions as outlined in Order 44-2021.○ Financial support will be available to help offset costs of implementing the program



SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
BUSINESS Alberta Jobs Now Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Alberta Jobs Now program will provide up to \$370 million to help private and non-profit businesses with job supports to get Albertans back to work.• Employers can apply for funding to offset the cost of hiring and training unemployed or underemployed Albertans in new or vacant positions• First intake: May 20 to July 23, 2021, closed on July 23, 2021• Next intake: Fall 2021 – announcements coming• Third intake: to be announced at a later date	<p>Employers can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• apply for a grant to offset salary or training costs, or both, equal to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 25% of a new hire's salary up to \$25,000 per employee○ 37.5% of the new hire's salary up to \$37,500 per employee with a disability• apply for up to 20 full-time new hires per intake period• choose to have payments issued in 1 or 2 payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1 payment: up to 100% of the grant after new hires have been employed for 52 weeks○ 2 payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ half of the eligible grant paid when the new hires have been employed for 3 months▪ the other half paid when the new hires have been employed for 52 weeks <p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be eligible, organizations must be one of the following legal entities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ private business or partnership<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ must have a valid Alberta Corporate Access Number (ACAN)▪ must have been incorporated for more than a year▪ must be located and operational in Alberta○ sole proprietors:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ must have a valid trade name number▪ must have been registered in the Alberta Corporate Registry for more than a year▪ must be located and operational in Alberta▪ with coverage under the Workers' Compensation Act must submit a Workers' Compensation Board (WCB-Alberta) clearance letter (see eligibility requirements for WCB-exempt industries)○ See eligibility requirements for non-profit organizations

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BUSINESS Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) Implementation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta's government will soon offer a one-time payment to small- and medium-sized businesses that implement the Restrictions Exemption Program.• 2021-10-07: Update: It is expected that the Alberta Government will be opening the application intake in the next four-to-six weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A one-time payment of \$2,000 will be offered to eligible small- and medium-sized businesses in Alberta that are eligible for and choose to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program, requiring proof of vaccination, a negative test result or medical exemption.
BUSINESS Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) Training Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta's government will make available an additional \$1 million to support the training and safety of workers when implementing REP.• Additional information on funding to made available soon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligible industry associations across Alberta can use the REP Training Grant to develop or procure training to help workers assess and manage challenging situations that may arise during their daily work. Workers and employers will be able to access this training through select industry associations.

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PROGRAM DETAILS

BUSINESS
Rapid Testing Program

- Employers and service providers can apply to implement a rapid COVID-19 testing program for their organization.

- Employers and service providers can apply to receive free rapid test kits for use in their organization's COVID-19 screening program.
- 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.
- 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.
- The application process will prioritize businesses or organizations involved with:
 - vulnerable populations
 - high-risk settings and workplaces
 - essential services
 - sectors that support reopening of economic and social activities
- 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.
- Successful applicants must also ensure proper protocols are in place for COVID-19 screening, testing and reporting.
- Application:
 - Review the [program overview](#)
 - Develop a screening program plan
 - Complete the [request form](#)
 - Submit application to rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca.
- 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.
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BUSINESS WCB Premium Deferral Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small, medium, and large private sector employers can defer WCB premium payments until 2021.• Program has ended. Deferred premiums were due March 1, 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All private sector employers will have their 2020 WCB premiums deferred to 2021.• 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.• No interest charges will apply on unpaid balances for 2020.• Payments already made towards 2020 premiums will be automatically refunded to employers (there is no need to apply).• More information can be found on WCB Alberta online• WCB Fact Sheet for Employers
BUSINESS INDIVIDUAL Utility Payment Deferral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• This program ended June 18, 2020. See below for information on deferral repayment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This program ran from March 18, 2020 to June 18, 2020• Details provided for reference only:• 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">○ have been diagnosed with COVID-19○ have been directed by health authorities to self-isolate○ have lost your job○ are taking care of a family member• Albertans in arrears or behind in payments before the deferral program launched on March 18 are also eligible for a deferral• Call your utility provider directly to arrange for a 90-day deferral on all payments. You will need your account information.• After June 19, the agreed upon repayment plan will be implemented• In situations where rent and utilities are combined, contact your landlord directly to discuss the circumstances

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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](#).