All Businesses

The City of Barrie is doing everything possible, in cooperation with the provincial and federal governments, to minimize impact and see economic recovery take place as soon as possible. This document outlines support resources available to all businesses.

Please visit barrie.ca/SupportForBusiness for information about resources available to various sectors, and for details about changes to City services that support business during this time.

Federal Support Programs

Avoiding Layoffs & Rehiring Employees

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
The government are covering up to 65% of an employee's wages for qualifying eligible employers, with this subsidy rate in effect until March 31, 2021. The wage subsidy supports you to keep and re-hire your employees and avoid layoffs. Get the details.

Work Sharing Program
The government is extending the work sharing program from 38 to 76 weeks for employers affected by COVID-19. This program has been extended to September 24, 2022. Get the details.

Taxes & Tariffs

Waiving Tariffs on Certain Medical Goods
The government is waiving tariffs on certain medical goods, including PPE such as masks and gloves. Get the details.

Access to Credit

Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)
The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) provides a direct and easy-to-access rent and mortgage subsidy of up to 65% of eligible expenses to qualifying businesses, charities and non-profits. This support is available directly to tenants.

Lockdown Support
Qualifying organizations that have been significantly restricted by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority can receive an additional 25% of rent support through the Lockdown Support. The combined effect of the rent subsidy and the Lockdown Support is that hard-hit businesses, non-profits and charities subject to a lockdown can receive rent support of up to 90%. The rent subsidy and the Lockdown Support are available until June 2021. Apply here.
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Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)
The government established the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) to provide bridge financing to Canada’s largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing in order to keep their operations going. More details.

Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP) Guarantee
Businesses heavily impacted by COVID-19 can access guaranteed, low-interest loans of $25,000 to $1 million to cover operational cash flow needs. Available until March 31st 2022. More details.

Support Expansions & Changes due to Omicron Variant
The government has announced new proposed regulatory changes to temporarily expand eligibility for wage and commercial rent support for businesses and other organizations under the Local Lockdown Program. Depending on the period you are applying for, you may be eligible to claim your commercial rent or property expenses through one of the following

- Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP)
- Hardest Hit Business Recovery Program (HHBRP)
- Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)

Supporting Financial Stability

Bank of Canada actions
Lowering interest rates, intervening to support key financial markets and providing liquidity support for financial institutions. More detail.

Canada’s Six Biggest Banks Take Decisive Action to Help Customers Impacted by COVID-19
Canada’s six biggest banks have made a commitment to work with personal and small business banking customers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible solutions to help them manage through challenges. More detail.

Relief for Federally Regulated Pension Plan Sponsors
The federal government are providing immediate, temporary relief to sponsors of federally regulated, defined benefit pension plans in the form of a moratorium, through the remainder of 2020, on solvency payment requirements for defined benefit plans.

This relief will help ensure that employers have the financial resources they need to maintain their operations and their pension plans, and to protect the retirement security of their workers and retirees. More details.

investbarrie
The City of Barrie is working with our industry partners with updating this document regularly to be able to identify actions to support businesses in responding to the economic impact of COVID-19.
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Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions actions
The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions announced it is lowering the Domestic Stability Buffer by 1.25% of risk-weighted assets. This action will allow Canada’s large banks to inject $300 billion of additional lending into the economy. 

Access to Credit: Self-employed Individuals

Funding for Employees/Workers

Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB)

The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB) gives temporary income support to employed and self-employed people who cannot work due to a COVID-19 lockdown. If you are eligible for the CWLB, you can receive $300 ($270 after taxes withheld) for each 1-week period. You may apply for any weeks your region is eligible between October 24, 2021 and May 7, 2022. Get the details.

Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)

The CRSB provides $500 per week for up to a maximum of two weeks, for workers affected by COVID-19. The CRSB is extending until May 7, 2022. The maximum number of weeks you can apply for also increases to 6 weeks. You can apply retroactively for periods 61 to 63 until February 16, 2022 if you are eligible. Get the details.

Canada Workers Benefit (CWB)

The Canada workers benefit (CWB) is a refundable tax credit to help individuals and families who are working and earning a low income. The CWB has two parts: a basic amount and a disability supplement. You can claim the CWB when you file your income tax return. Eligible individuals and families can get up to half of the CWB in advance payments instead of waiting for tax time. Get the details.

Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)

The CRCB provides $500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers affected by COVID-19. The CRCB is extending until May 7, 2022. The maximum number of weeks you can apply for also increases to 44 weeks. You can apply retroactively for periods 61 to 63 until February 16, 2022 if you are eligible. Get the details.
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Provincial Support Programs

Provincial Tools & Resources

Digital Main Street
Digital Main Street is a free platform that helps main street businesses identify and adopt the right digital tools and technologies that can help reach more customers and boost sales. More detail.

Pausing Commercial Evictions
The provincial government is temporarily stopping or reversing evictions of commercial tenants and protecting them from being locked out or having their assets seized during COVID-19. This applies to businesses that are eligible for federal/provincial rent assistance, for evictions from May 1, 2020. It does not apply to those participating in CECRA for small businesses. Get more details.

Stop the Spread Business Information Line
The province has launched a toll-free line 1-888-444-3659 to provide support to Ontario businesses who have questions about closures of at-risk workplaces or how emergency measures impact their business or employment. More detail.

Ontario Together
The Ontario Government has launched a website that will help businesses and their employees work with the province to meet the challenges of COVID-19. More detail.

COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers
The Ontario Government has launched a website that will help businesses by preparing to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove any barriers that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario's supply chain. More detail.

Ontario Launches Education Campaign to Help Workplaces Reopen Safely
The Ontario government is launching new health and safety education campaigns, with a particular focus on helping small businesses across the province reopen safely. The on-the-ground assistance includes a comprehensive suite of resources business owners can access at no cost to ensure they are helping prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. More detail.

Financial Support

Ontario Caps Food Delivery Fees to Protect Small Businesses
Food delivery companies will be required to limit the rates they charge to 20% for each transaction — with no more than 15% for commission for food delivery services. The cap applies in areas where indoor
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dining is prohibited, to help restaurants stay in business and continue contributing to their communities. Get the details.

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)
The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) will allow employers to defer payments for a period of six months. This will provide employers with $1.9 billion in financial relief. More detail.

Interest and Penalty Relief
Ontario is making $10 billion available to improve cash flows for people and businesses through tax and other deferrals over the coming months to provide relief. More detail.

Ontario Together Fund
You may be eligible for the Ontario Together Fund if your submission will help you retool or adopt the technological changes needed to produce supplies and equipment for the health care sector or if you are developing solutions for other critical public services. Not all submissions will be considered for funding. The deadline is March 31, 2022. More detail.

Skills Development Fund
Applications are now open for the Ontario government's new two-year $115 million Skills Development Fund. The fund, which will support workers and apprentices, is specifically designed to address the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and help reduce obstacles to hiring, training and retaining while preparing workers for the province's economic recovery. The Skills Development fund is open for round 2. More detail.

Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG)
The Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG) is an Ontario government funding program that offers training grants to employers. Through the program, companies may receive non-repayable funding from the government to purchase third-party business training programs, including training for in-demand skillsets. Training is expected to improve the employability and value employees can provide; including new hires in these training sessions can also maximize your funding potential. More details.

Jobs & Growth Fund
The Jobs and Growth Fund provides funding to businesses and organizations to help create jobs and position local economies for long-term growth. The fund, delivered by Canada's regional development agencies (RDAs), provides $700 million nationally over three years, which includes up to $70 million dedicated to businesses created after January 2020 that meet eligibility criteria. Get Details
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Additional Support Programs

Financial Support Options

**Canada-Ontario Job Grant Program**
The Canada-Ontario Job Grant provides direct financial support to individual employers or employer consortia who wish to purchase training for their employees. It is available to small, medium, and large businesses with a plan to deliver short-term training to existing and new employees. [More details.](#)

**Project Learning Tree Canada**
Offers a 50% or 80% wage match, with up to $32,000 CAD in reimbursements, to employers hiring youth aged 15-30 into Green Jobs. A Green Job is one that supports nature-based solutions for a more sustainable planet. [More details.](#)