

Dear Contracted Service Provider:

On May 7, 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that all provinces and territories have confirmed – or are in the process of confirming – plans to cost-share wage top-ups for their essential workers. The Government of Canada committed to provide up to \$3 billion in support to increase the wages of low-income essential workers. Each province or territory is individually responsible for determining eligible workers within the available funding envelope.

Yesterday, the Province of British Columbia announced its [temporary pandemic pay program](#). As part of a cost-shared program with the federal government, temporary pandemic pay will support people working on the frontlines in British Columbia's health care system, social services, and corrections. This includes workers delivering a range of health and social services to people most vulnerable to COVID-19, and where maintaining physical distancing is difficult if not impossible.

- To be eligible, employees must have worked straight-time hours at any point during the 16-week period starting March 15, 2020.
- It does not apply to excluded management staff, fee-for-service providers or employees on leave.
- It does not apply to employees who received additional compensation as part of BC Housing's Safe Staffing Strategy.
- Programs that have been closed or transitioned to a primarily virtual model are not eligible for pandemic pay.

In advance of the announcement, employers' associations have worked with the Province to identify eligible employees. A detailed list of eligible job classifications will be distributed shortly.

British Columbia's approach focuses on:

- Frontline workers in health, social services and corrections who provide a range of in-person, clinical and supportive services to vulnerable populations where physical distancing is difficult or impossible.
- Pandemic pay will be equivalent to \$4 per hour and delivered in lump sum payments.
- The start date of the 16-week period is March 15, 2020, to reflect the height of the province's pandemic response.

Employers' associations and employers will work with funding ministries to determine a process to report eligibility and transfer funding in the coming days. It is likely that many employees will receive their pandemic pay in one lump sum at the conclusion of the sixteen-week period, after employers have reconciled hours worked with their funders. The funding for temporary pandemic pay is available for provincially-funded programs only, and only for the portion of workers who are funded by the province.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Client Relations Branch via e-mail at MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Allison Bond
Deputy Minister for Children and Family Development

Sent on behalf of the Deputy Minister by:



Client Relations Branch

Executive Operations

Ministry of Children and Family Development