



Social Assistance Program
and **Social Solidarity** Program

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY
BENEFIT AMOUNTS**

In effect as of January 1, 2010



INDEXATION OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY BENEFITS

Since January 1, 2009, social assistance and social solidarity benefits have been subject to full annual indexation.

On January 1, 2010, the benefits granted to individuals and families qualifying for the Social Assistance Program or Social Solidarity Program will be indexed by **0.48%**, i.e. the rate used to index the Québec personal income tax system.

BENEFIT

Social Assistance Program

The benefit, which is generally paid on the first day of each month, includes a basic benefit, to which may be added the following:

- temporarily limited capacity for employment allowance
- Québec sales tax (QST) adjustment
- adjustments for dependent children
- amounts paid as special benefits

Social Solidarity Program

The benefit, which is generally paid on the first day of each month, includes a social solidarity allowance, to which may be added the following:

- a Québec sales tax (QST) adjustment
- adjustments for dependent children
- amounts paid as special benefits

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Social Assistance Program offers financial assistance to persons whose capacity for employment is not limited or who have a temporarily limited capacity for employment. It also offers financial assistance to families where the capacity for employment of the adult or adults is not limited and/or where they have a temporarily limited capacity for employment.

You have a temporarily limited capacity for employment if, for example, your health prevents you, for at least one month, from carrying out a job preparation, integration or retention activity. You must provide a medical report establishing that your health prevents you from doing so.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM¹

CATEGORY	BASIC BENEFIT ³	TEMPORARILY LIMITED CAPACITY FOR EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE	QUÉBEC SALES TAX (QST) AMOUNT	TOTAL	EXEMPTED WORK INCOME
1 ADULT²					
No limited capacity for employment	567 \$	0 \$	25,08 \$ ⁴	592,08 \$	200 \$
Temporarily limited capacity for employment	567 \$	121 \$	25,08 \$ ⁴	713,08 \$	200 \$
1 SPOUSE OF A STUDENT					
No limited capacity for employment	157 \$	0 \$	14,92 \$	171,92 \$	200 \$
Temporarily limited capacity for employment	157 \$	121 \$	14,92 \$	292,92 \$	200 \$
1 independent adult living in a shelter or required to live in an institution for social reintegration purposes or 1 adult who is a minor sheltered with her dependent child					
	184 \$	0 \$	0 \$	184 \$	200 \$
2 ADULTS²					
No limited capacity for employment	878 \$	0 \$	29,83 \$	907,83 \$	300 \$
Temporarily limited capacity for employment	878 \$	207 \$	29,83 \$	1 114,83 \$	300 \$
2 ADULTS IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS					
1 adult with no limited capacity for employment and 1 adult with a temporarily limited capacity for employment	878 \$	121 \$	29,83 \$	1 028,83 \$	300 \$
2 adults with a temporarily limited capacity for employment, where 1 adult is not entitled to a temporarily limited capacity for employment allowance ²	878 \$	121 \$	29,83 \$	1 028,83 \$	300 \$

SOCIAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAM

The Social Solidarity Program offers financial assistance to persons with a severely limited capacity for employment, i.e. those whose physical or mental health is significantly affected, whether permanently or indefinitely. It also offers financial assistance to families in which at least one adult has a severely limited capacity for employment.

SOCIAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAM ¹				
CATEGORY	SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ALLOWANCE	QUÉBEC SALES TAX (QST) AMOUNT	TOTAL	EXEMPTED WORK INCOME
1 adult	862 \$	25,08 \$ ⁴	887,08 \$	100 \$
1 spouse of a student	436 \$	14,92 \$	450,92 \$	100 \$
1 independent adult living in a shelter or required to live in an establishment for social reintegration purposes or 1 minor adult sheltered with her dependent child	184 \$	0 \$	184 \$	100 \$
2 adults	1 289 \$	29,83 \$	1 318,83 \$	100 \$

1. These amounts cover the adults' basic needs. Other amounts may be added as adjustments for dependent children (minor or age of majority) or as special benefits.
2. If you participate in an employment-assistance measure or social assistance and support program, in addition to your benefit, you could receive an employment-assistance allowance or support allowance. However, if you are entitled to one of these allowances, you may not receive the temporarily limited capacity for employment allowance at the same time.
3. Except in the cases specified in the Individual and Family Assistance Regulation, the basic benefit under the Social Assistance Program granted to a person who lives with his or her parents or to a family that lives with the parents of one of the adult members the family is reduced by \$100 per month and in the case of the spouse of a student who is living with his or her parents or with the student's parents, the basic benefit is reduced by \$50 per month.
4. If you share a dwelling with someone other than a dependent child, the Québec Sales Tax (QST) amount is \$14.92 instead of \$25.08.

EXEMPTED WORK INCOME

Part of the work income you earn is exempted when your benefit is calculated. For example, if you are an adult eligible under the Social Assistance Program, do not have a spouse and have work income of \$500, the exemption is \$200, regardless of whether or not you have dependent children. The amount taken into account to determine your benefit is the difference between the two amounts, that is, \$300. The exemption also applies to the following income: maternity, parental and compassionate care benefits paid under Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's employment-insurance plan and benefits paid under the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale's Québec Parental Insurance Plan.

You must report all of your income to the Department.

INCENTIVE TO ENTER THE LABOUR MARKET

To make it easier for persons who have been receiving social assistance or social solidarity benefits for at least three years, or persons who have been receiving a youth allowance under the Youth Alternative Program to enter the labour market, the Québec government offers the supplement to the work premium. This is a tax credit granted by Revenu Québec to persons who no longer receive such benefits or allowances because they are earnings work income. It is also granted to families in which an adult or adults have ceased to receive such benefits or allowances because of work income.

The Québec government also offers the work premium and the adapted work premium. These are tax credits granted by Revenu Québec to persons who earn work income to encourage them to remain in the labour market. They are also granted to families in which an adult or adults have work income. More specifically, the adapted work premium is allocated to persons with a severely limited capacity for employment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your local employment centre officer or the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale's Bureau des renseignements et plaintes at the following toll-free number:

- 1 888 643-4721

www.mess.gouv.qc.ca

Note

This information document may not be used for legal interpretation purposes.