



## How to Apply for Government Tax Benefits and Credits, including those for Children and Families

There are a range of government benefits and tax credits offered in Canada depending on your needs and circumstances, including those specifically for children and families. Here is some information on the options, how to find out if you may qualify, and how to apply.

### Which benefits might I qualify for?

For a full list of tax benefits and credits available, go to [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca) and search "Benefits Menu." Depending on your income and dependents, you may be eligible for the Ontario Trillium benefit, which includes the Ontario Sales Tax Credit, Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit.

For children and families, use the Child and Family Benefits Calculator to find out which benefits you may be eligible for and how much you might receive. Go to [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca) and search "Benefits Calculator."

### How does the government decide how much I receive?

To apply for and continue receiving the government tax benefit and credit payments that you are entitled to, you have to file your "income tax and benefit return" on time every year, even if you do not have income in the year. If you have a spouse or common-law partner, they also have to file a return every year.

**You must file your income tax and benefit return on time every year to continue receiving government tax benefits and credit payments.**

What you may qualify for and the amount is generally based on your household income, as well as the number and age of dependents you have. For example, the amount you would receive through the Canada Child Benefit is calculated using your income tax and benefit return. Benefits are paid over a 12-month period from July of one year to June of the next year.





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## How to apply for child and family benefits

### Option 1: Automatically when you submit your child's birth registration

If you give your consent on the provincial/territorial birth registration form, do not reapply for your child's benefits using the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) online service or Form RC66: Canada Child Benefits Application.

### Option 2: Online

Go to [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca) and search "My Account for Individuals" to apply.

### Option 3: By mail

To find a CRA form or publication for a benefit or credit, go to [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca) and search "topics child and family benefits" or call 1-800-959-5525 to request copies of forms.