Child and Family COVID-19 Relief Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who qualifies for this program?

This program is designed for Métis families who have children between the ages of 0 and 12 years of age and have been impacted by loss of income due to COVID-19.

Eligibility Requirements:

a. Applicant family must be a current resident of Alberta
b. Either the parent/guardian or the child (0-12) must be an MNA Citizen
c. Applicant must be the parent/legal guardian of at least one child between 0 and 12 years of age who resides within their household
d. The parent/guardian has been impacted by loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic

How do I apply for this program?

Apply for the Child and Family COVID-19 Relief Program by completing the online form here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbLpLGoYjSh7uMnHKae023VqbeQX8ZleiMQFjXqRoSopSWm9w/viewform.

Submit all requested documents by clicking the link in the application form when prompted to do so.

Support is limited and will be distributed to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. It is important to ensure that you have submitted all required documents and your application information is correct. The MNA is unable to process incomplete or inaccurate applications.

Only one application per eligible child/household will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, which includes shared custody situations.

Do I have to be living in Alberta?

Yes. If you live out of the province, you do not qualify.
Why do I need to submit Long Form Birth Certificate (LFBC) when applying for the Child and Family COVID-19 Relief Program?

This requirement acts as a protective factor to ensure we are giving these funds to Métis Albertans and their children. An LFBC has both the child’s and the parent’s names on it and is the best way to guarantee these limited funds are not going to fraudulent applicants.

You can obtain an LFBC through the Government of Alberta’s website, via the following link: [https://www.alberta.ca/order-birth-certificate.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/order-birth-certificate.aspx)
Most applicants receive theirs within 3-5 days.

If you are having trouble getting a LFBC, please contact us at CFCR@metis.org

The Child and Family COVID-19 Relief Program says it is a one-time payment over three months. What does this mean?

The MNA is offering a one-time payment for the months of January, February, and March 2021 to assist families who have lost income due to COVID-19. Eligible applicants will receive a one-time benefit of a maximum of $500 per eligible child between the ages of 0-12, per month for up to three months (January, February, March 2021) to a maximum total amount of $2,500 per household/family. For example, if you have two or more children between the ages of 0-12, the maximum total benefit paid is $2,500 per household/family.

How will I know whether my application is successful?

You will receive an email from a CFS team member confirming your successful application, or an email outlining why your application was unsuccessful within approximately four weeks from when your application was submitted.

What if I am unable to complete the online registration?

If you do not have access to a computer or are having trouble with the online application form, please contact the Métis Nation of Alberta at CFCR@metis.org, and a staff member will support you in the application process.
What is the breakdown of available funds for eligible Métis families under the Child and Family COVID-19 Relief Program?

The MNA can provide families through the Child and Family COVID Relief Program a maximum payment of $500 per eligible child between the ages of 0-12, per month for up to three months (January, February, March 2021) to a maximum total amount of $2,500 per household/family. For example, if you have two or more children between the ages of 0-12, the maximum benefit paid will be $2,500 per household.

This support program will cease to exist when the funds are completely distributed and will be disbursed on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible families. Only fully completed, accurate, and eligible applications can be processed. Therefore, incomplete or inaccurate applications increase the risk of missing out on this support.

The MNA is not responsible for:
- citizens who could qualify for the program but did not apply,
- citizens who applied outside of the listed time frame, or
- citizens who had incomplete applications resulting in their application being denied.

How will I receive the payment?

Once your application has been completed, submitted, and eligibility confirmed, the MNA will order a cheque issued to the applicant to be sent to the mailing address provided in the application form. The MNA is unable to accommodate other payment methods such as cash or direct deposit.

When will I receive my cheque?

Once the application is submitted and eligibility confirmed, the MNA will submit a cheque order in the applicant’s name and begin the mail-out process. This process may take up to 4-6 weeks. If it has been longer than 4-6 weeks and you would like to check in on the status of your application, please email CFCR@metis.org and a staff member will be able to provide you with an update at that time. Please do not follow up on an application until 4-6 weeks after you have completed the application.
Can I challenge a denial of eligibility for the Child and Family COVID-19 Relief Program (CFCR)?

All families that receive the Child and Family COVID-19 Relief Program (CFCR) must meet all the eligibility criteria notes above. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis for as long as the funds are available. If you were denied eligibility due to a mistake made on your application form, you may try to reapply a second time with the correct information. However, since funding is limited and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, it is not guaranteed.

Does this affect my employment insurance (EI)?

You must report employment earnings while receiving EI, but generally, relief payments do not count as earnings under EI regulations. However, every situation is different, and it is best to connect directly with EI support before reporting. Please click on this link to learn more: https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/various-types-earnings.html

What if I have a question or concern that is not outlined in this document?

If you have a question or concern regarding the Child and Family COVID-19 Relief Program (CFCR), please contact the Métis Nation of Alberta Child and Family Services Department at CFCR@metis.org and a staff member will support you in the application process.