

## Changes to the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP)

The Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) is changing to offer more support for lower-income electricity consumers.

Eligible consumers will see monthly, on-bill OESP credits increased by 50 per cent. Eligibility thresholds for household income and size will also be broadened. Utilities will be implementing enhanced credits beginning May 1, 2017.

Consumers can find out more and check to see if they are eligible for assistance under the expanded program at [OntarioElectricitySupport.ca](http://OntarioElectricitySupport.ca). Information is also available on the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) website at [www.oeb.ca](http://www.oeb.ca).

### New OESP Credit Amounts and Eligibility Thresholds

The following table reflects changes to the program that will be in effect as of May 1, 2017 for eligible consumers.

Base	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
<28,000	\$45	\$45	\$51	\$57	\$63	\$75	\$75
28,001 - 39,000		\$40*	\$45	\$51	\$57	\$63	\$75
39,001 - 48,000			\$35*	\$40*	\$45	\$51	\$57
48,001 - 52,000					\$35*	\$40*	\$45

If your home is electrically heated, or you rely on certain medical devices requiring a lot of power, the OESP offers a higher level of assistance. Low-income Indigenous Ontarians also qualify for a higher level of assistance. These consumers are considered for enhanced eligibility.

The following table reflects changes to the program that will be in effect as of May 1, 2017 for eligible enhanced consumers.

Enhanced	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
<28,000	\$68	\$68	\$75	\$83	\$90	\$113	\$113
28,001 - 39,000		\$60*	\$68	\$75	\$83	\$90	\$113
39,001 - 48,000			\$52*	\$60*	\$68	\$75	\$83
48,001 - 52,000					\$52*	\$60*	\$68

\*Green cells denote the new eligibility thresholds for household income and size.

## How To Apply

### Step 1: Gather information

- Your electricity bill
- Names and birthdates of all the residents in your home as registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
- Social Insurance Numbers (SINs), Individual Tax Numbers or temporary taxation numbers for all household members over the age of 18.

### Step 2: Complete the application

There are three ways to apply:

- Online – Apply now at [OntarioElectricitySupport.ca](http://OntarioElectricitySupport.ca) and mail the consent form to the address on the OESP website (the CRA needs your consent to verify your income). This is the fastest way to apply
- On Paper – Complete the application and sign the consent forms (the CRA needs your consent to verify your income). Mail them back to the address on the OESP website. You can download the documents from [OntarioElectricitySupport.ca](http://OntarioElectricitySupport.ca)
- Through an Intake Agency – Contact a designated intake agency near you if you would like help with your application. There is no cost for this service. [Find an agency near you.](#)
- *Note: If you have not filed an income tax return recently, or if your situation has changed since you last filed, you can apply for OESP through an intake agency. You'll need to bring all of the documents listed in step 1 above, plus proof of your household income.*



## What happens after you apply?

We'll let you know if you qualify for OESP about four to six weeks after your completed application and signed consent forms have been received. If you qualify, the credit will appear directly on your electricity bill in about 6 to 8 weeks after you have been approved. You will receive OESP credits on your bill for 2 years before having to reapply.

## About the OESP

The Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) was developed by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to help low-income consumers across Ontario with their electricity bills through monthly, on-bill credits. Since it was launched by the OEB on Jan. 1, 2016, the OESP program has provided assistance to more than 153,000 low-income households. For more information, visit [OntarioElectricitySupport.ca](http://OntarioElectricitySupport.ca).

## Contact the OEB

For more information, visit the OEB website at [www.oeb.ca](http://www.oeb.ca) or contact us directly.

## Media Inquiries

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