

Income support programs for immigrants and refugees: Eligibility and application

	Permanent resident	Temporary resident (work permit) or spouse of a temporary resident	Refugee claimant	Protected person (Convention Refugee, determined to be a CR from within Canada)	Non-status/ Undocumented
Social Insurance Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply as soon as they arrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply as soon as they arrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply as soon as they receive the Employment Authorization SIN starts with 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIN: Keeps the same SIN that starts with 9 that they got when a Refugee Claimant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No
Child Tax Benefit/Ontario Child Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply as soon as they arrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply after 18 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, unless the spouse is eligible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As soon as they are accepted as Convention Refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, unless the spouse is eligible
GST/HST credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply as soon as they arrive Re-apply each year by filing an income tax return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply as soon as they arrive Re-apply each year by filing an income tax return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply as soon as you have a SIN Re-apply each year by filing an income tax return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-apply each year by filing an income tax return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible
Ontario Trillium Benefit (OTB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic application after applying for GST/HST credit Re-apply each year by filing an income tax return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic after applying for GST/HST credit Re-apply each year by filing an income tax return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic after applying for GST/HST credit Re-apply each year by filing an income tax return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic after applying for GST/HST credit Re-apply each year by filing an income tax return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible
Immigration Loans program (federal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. To help cover costs associated with medical examinations abroad, travel documents, transportation to Canada, and the ROLF. To disadvantaged newcomers to pay for expenses such as housing, telephone deposits, and work tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No
Resettlement Assistance Program (federal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. It provides refugees with income support, immediate essential services and access to broader based services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No
Ontario Works (OW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For sponsored permanent residents special rules apply. See Ontario Works policy directives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maybe. Very special circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It depends. See Ontario Works policy directives.

Adapted from materials created by West Neighbourhood House, Toronto, ON, as part of the Financial Empowerment & Problem Solving Program. This is based on federal & Ontario provincial benefits.