

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Youth Justice Division

Sous-ministre adjoint  
Division de la justice pour la jeunesse

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May 27, 2020

Keith Zehr  
President  
Youth Justice Ontario  
[kzehr@creightonyouth.com](mailto:kzehr@creightonyouth.com)

Dear Keith Zehr:

As you know, on April 25, the government announced it is providing eligible frontline and support workers with temporary pandemic pay.

Through temporary pandemic pay, we are recognizing over 375,000 eligible frontline and support workers across a number of sectors who are delivering critical services that support all Ontarians, including the most vulnerable members of our communities. These frontline heroes are putting themselves and their loved ones at risk. They are saving lives and we owe them an incredible debt of gratitude.

Since the April 25 announcement, we have received inquiries about whether the list of eligible workers or workplaces would be expanded. There is a limit to the amount of funding provided by the federal government through our agreement and after careful consideration, the government will not be expanding the pandemic pay beyond those already deemed eligible.

Pandemic pay will be in effect for eligible workers from April 24, 2020 until August 13, 2020, and consists of:

1. **A temporary top-up on hourly wages:** Eligible workers will receive \$4 per hour worked on top of existing hourly wages, regardless of how much they already make; and

2. **Monthly lump sum payments:** Eligible workers who work at least 100 hours in a designated 4-week period will also be eligible to receive an additional lump sum payment of \$250 for that period, up to a total of \$1,000 in lump sum payments. The designated 4-week periods are:

- April 24, 2020 to May 21, 2020
- May 22, 2020 to June 18, 2020
- June 19, 2020 to July 16, 2020
- July 17, 2020 to August 13, 2020

In the first week of June 2020 ministries will start providing written funding commitments to employer partners that receive direct government funding, as well as to service delivery managers, followed quickly by the flow of money.

We expect some employers will begin receiving pandemic pay in early June, however exact timing will vary.

The Pandemic Pay website at [Ontario.ca/pandemicpay](https://ontario.ca/pandemicpay) will be updated in the coming days with more specific timelines.

Our ministry will continue to work with eligible employers to move the funding forward as quickly as possible, always recognizing the due diligence that is required for government funding.

Service providers can expect their first payment covering the period April 24, 2020 - June 19, 2020 and subsequent payment covering the period June 20, 2020 - August 13, 2020.

If you have any questions about pandemic pay, please don't hesitate to contact me at [david.mitchell3@ontario.ca](mailto:david.mitchell3@ontario.ca).

Thank you,



David Mitchell  
Assistant Deputy Minister