

Questions and Answers

Phase Two - Saskatchewan Temporary Wage Supplement Program (STWSP)

1. What is the Saskatchewan Wage Supplement Program (STWSP)?

The Saskatchewan Temporary Wage Supplement Program (STWSP) is a federally cost-shared program established to provide financial assistance to eligible workers employed by an approved essential care facility

Under the program, a temporary wage supplement of \$400 for each 4-week period will be provided to all eligible full-time, part-time and casual workers, including care workers, cooks, housekeepers, janitors, administrative staff, and any persons who are employees of the facility.

2. How is the payment determined?

The wage supplement benefit is a flat \$400 per 4-week period, provided for two periods from November 19, 2020 to December 16, 2020 and December 17, 2020 to January 13, 2021.

3. Which facilities are included under Phase Two of the STWSP?

Facilities included are those impacted by the suspension on visitation effective November 20th for long-term care facilities and personal care homes.

Eligible essential care facilities under Phase Two of the STWSP include:

- Personal care home licensed pursuant to *The Personal Care Homes Act*
- Special-care home designated pursuant to *The Provincial Health Authority Act*
- Integrated health care facility (facility that includes a designated Special-care home along with acute care and/or health centre services within the same facility).

Home care workers providing care to seniors in their own homes are also eligible.

Acute care facilities such as hospitals which provide access to acute short term care services such as emergency, ambulatory care, diagnostic services, inpatient and outpatient care, critical care, and surgical care operated by the Provincial Health Authority or its affiliates as defined in *The Provincial Health Authority Act*, are not eligible facilities.

4. Which facilities eligible under the first STWSP are not included under Phase Two

Facilities that are not included are those not included in the November 20th suspension on visitation:

- Unlicensed assisted living facilities
- Community-based homes/groups
- Licensed childcare facilities
- Emergency shelters
- Transition shelters - short stay/emergency transition housing

- Approved-private service home as defined in *The Residential Services Act*
- Licensed or unlicensed family child care home as defined in *The Child Care Act*

5. Is there an income criteria under Phase Two?

There is no income criteria for eligibility under Phase Two of the program.

6. Which employees are eligible for the STWSP?

Eligible workers include unionized and non-unionized people employed by the owner or operator of an eligible essential care facility, including full-time, part-time and casual positions.

Persons who provide services on a fee for service or contractual basis to an essential care facility are not eligible.

7. How soon can I apply? How soon can I expect to receive my payment?

Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, November 23, 2020 and will be processed on a first come first serve basis. Completed applications with all required information will be given priority.

Providing direct deposit bank information on the application form will allow for faster payment. The turn around time on payments will be determined once the application process is in place, however the goal is to process your application within 5 business days. Payments through direct deposit take 2-3 business days to arrive and payments through cheque can take up to 3 weeks.

8. Where can I go for more information?

A program overview is available on the Government of Saskatchewan COVID-19 Support for Businesses website.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/wage-supplement-program>

9. How do I apply and what information do I need to provide?

Applicants must complete and submit the online application form available at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/wage-supplement-program>

Applicants will be required to:

- Include banking information for automatic deposit;
- Upload copies of supporting employer information and direct deposit information
- Attest to eligibility criteria;
- Declare application to be true and accurate;
- Consent to information being used to confirm eligibility

10. What is the authority to make these payments?

Authority for implementing the program is assigned to the Minister of Finance pursuant to *The Executive Government Administration Act* and *The Economic and Co-operative Development Act*.

11. How much does this program cost?

The total program cost for Phase Two is estimated to be \$13-14 million.

12. What if I do not have a copy of my pay stubs?

Applicants will need to obtain this information from their employer(s) as it is required in order to confirm eligibility.

13. What if I was recently hired in an eligible facility? Will I still receive payment back to November 19th?

The payments are for each 4-week period commencing November 19, 2020, or commencing with the employee's start date in the eligible facility, whichever is later. If the employee starts their job sometime within the period, they are eligible for that period.

14. I can't find the facility on the application form. Who should I contact?

If you believe you work at an eligible essential care facility (as defined in question 3) and your facility does not appear on the application form, contact the Ministry of Finance by:

Telephone: Toll Free 1-800-667-6102
Regina 306-787-6645

Email: stwsp@gov.sk.ca

Upon contacting the Ministry of Finance you need to provide your contact information, and information regarding your employer, including their name, address, and type of facility. The information provided will be reviewed, and a decision as to eligibility will be provided as quickly as possible.