



## FOOD CRISIS SUPPLEMENT

Revised: November 2016

A food crisis supplement is available to people who fall short on their food budget due to an **unexpected event** or **immediate need**. When this happens the Ministry has the ability to issue funds or a “food voucher” to meet the need of the emergency.

There are limits however on the amount the Ministry can issue for food. Specifically, the Ministry can only issue up to **\$20 per person in the family - per month!**

**For example**, a single person will be given \$20 for the month or a family of 4 will be issued \$80 for the month. However, it is important to note, the Ministry isn't obligated to issue the full amount if they determine the need will be met with less. For instance, if it is for a family of 4 the maximum amount the Ministry can issue is \$80 but the Ministry may decide to only issue \$40 because the family bonus cheque will be coming out in 2 days and \$40 is sufficient to meet the need in their opinion.

### What does unexpected mean?

Sometimes sudden expenses come up which you did not budget for.

### Who is Eligible?

If you are eligible for income assistance, disability assistance or hardship assistance you can apply for a supplement. Even if you are using the food bank, you are still eligible for a food voucher.

Because food is an immediate need, the Ministry must address the request within the same business day, according to their policy. This means if you have no other way to get money for food and you meet the requirements, the Ministry must give you a food voucher by the next business day, from the day you request it.

### What does immediate need mean?

You are in emergency need of the item or need money to meet a food, shelter, or medical emergency.

### How to Request a Supplement

Submit your request to the Ministry in writing or visit the Ministry office. If you are not given an answer about the decision when you submit your request, be sure to call back to ask about the status of your application the next day.

A sample of a written request, asking the Ministry for food vouchers. In your letter, you must explain why you do not have enough money for food. Also be sure to date the letter, include your contact information, and your SIN or ministry file number so they can look up your file.

Date

Contact information: 604-555-0000  
[johndoe@example.com](mailto: johndoe@example.com)  
SIN # or Ministry file #: 00000000

I, John Doe, am requesting food vouchers from the Ministry as I am in immediate need of food. I have no other resources or money to obtain food.

I have no money for food because earlier this month my bedroom window was broken and I had to pay to replace it – an unexpected expense which I did not budget for.

At this time, I am asking that the Ministry issue me the maximum amount of food vouchers available to me.

John Doe

**REMEMBER: You DO NOT have to pay back the crisis supplements!**

For more information visit our website at [www.AskAnAdvocate.ca](http://www.AskAnAdvocate.ca)