



Bridging Digital Gaps

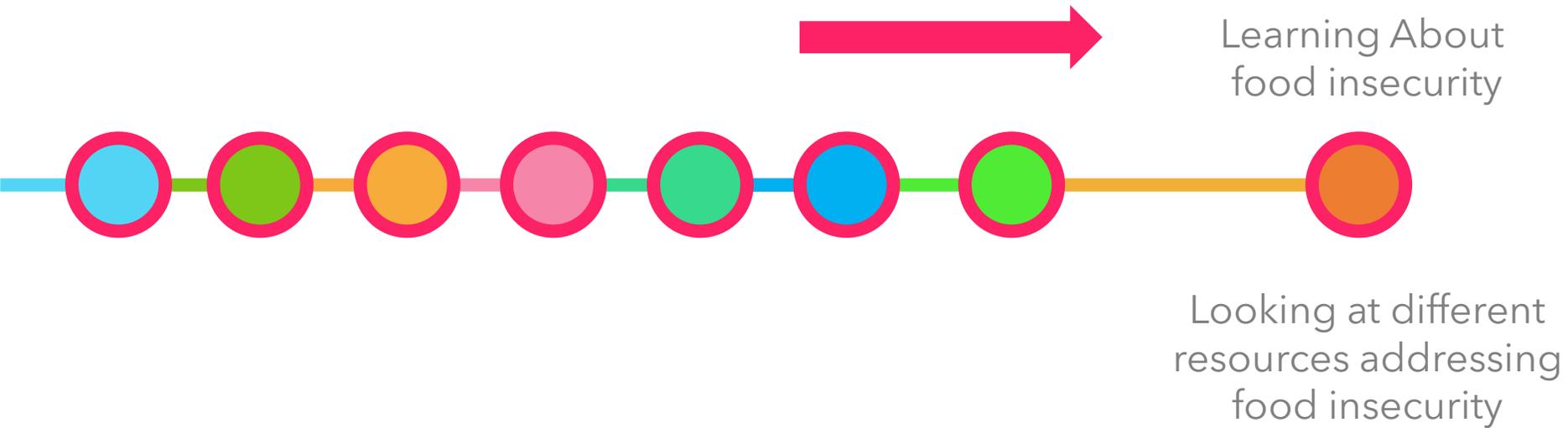
Presented By: The 519 & RIWC

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. This land is also governed by the dish with one spoon wampum belt convenient: an agreement between allied First Nations to peaceable share and care for the land around the Great Lakes.

The City of Toronto has been acknowledging the traditional territory since March 2014. Due to conversations with Indigenous leaders, including the Aboriginal Advisory Committee as part of the 2018 Toronto for All Campaign, the language the City of Toronto uses has evolved.

Series Progress



Today's Agenda

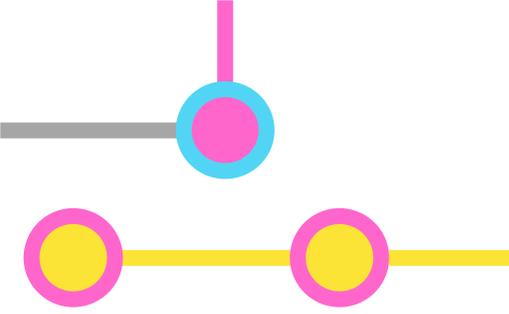
1. Learning about food insecurity in our community

2. Learning about food insecurity support

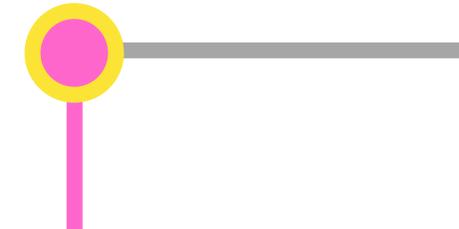
3. Reviewing additional online resources

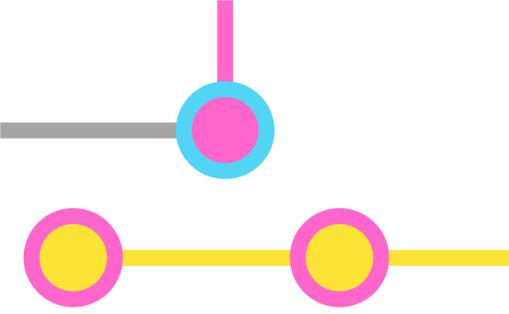


Let's talk about
food insecurity

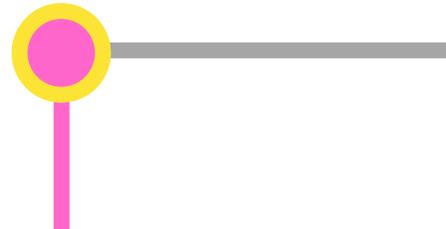


What is food insecurity?

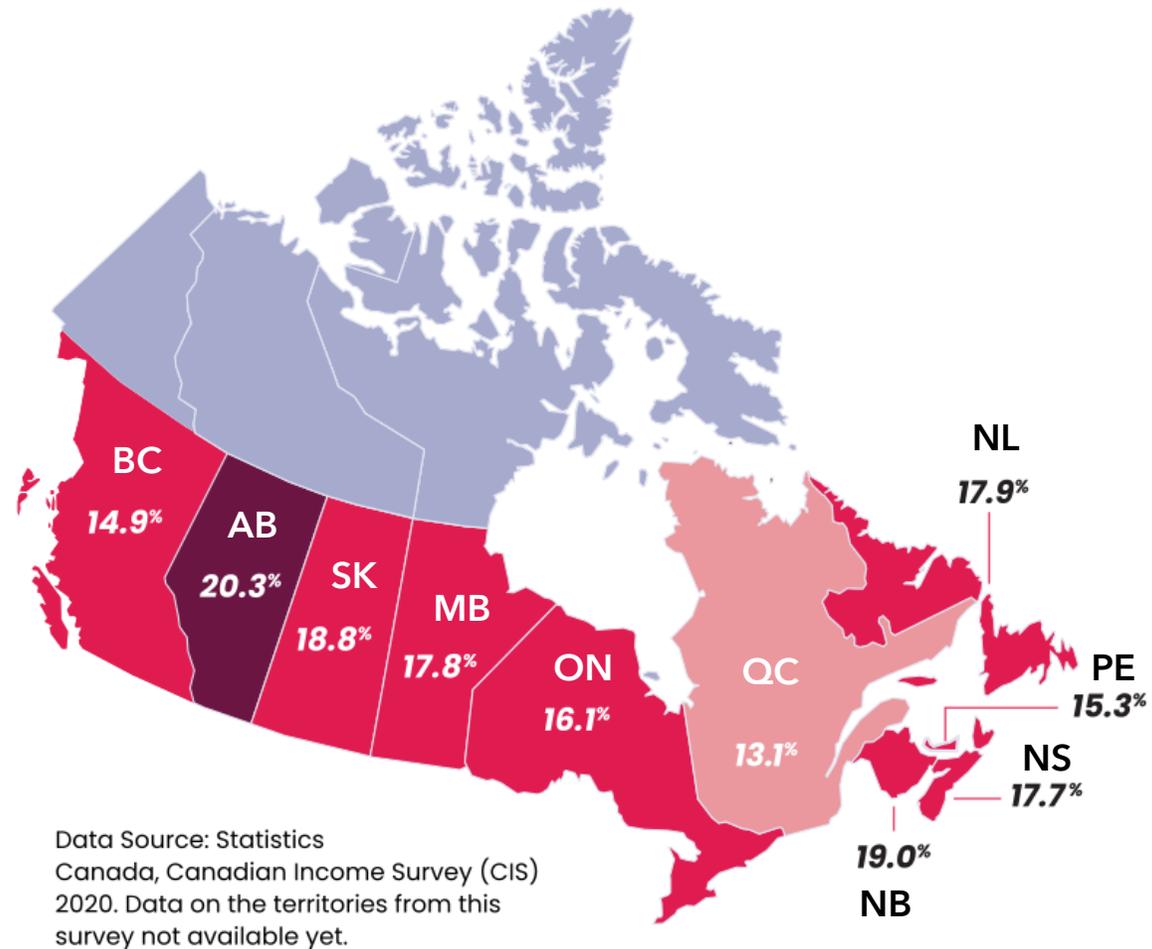
- State of being in which there is a lack of, or no, reliable access to affordable, healthy food
 - A CBC article posted on August 17, 2022, reported that approximately 5.8 million Canadians experienced food insecurity in 2021
- 



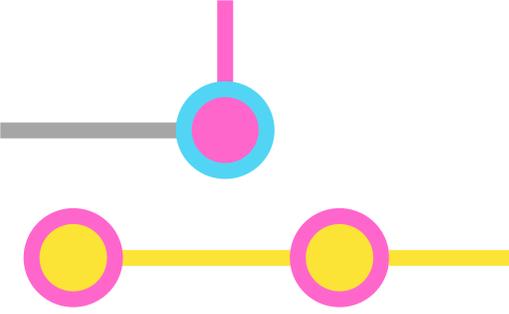
How are we affected?

- 
- In Ontario alone, it is reported that 1 in 6 households (16.1% or 2.3 million people) were food insecure in the last year
 - Approximately 4.6% of households saw severe food insecurity, resulting in the missing of meals and heavily reduced food intake
- 

Prevalence of Household Food Insecurity by Province, 2021



Reprinted from *Household Food Insecurity in Canada, 2021* by Tarasuk, Li, & Fafard St-Germain, 2022.



How are we affected?

- 
- Researchers at the University of Toronto have found that food insecurity rates in Canada haven't changed over the last 3 years
 - The pandemic only added to the already high rates of food insecurity
 - Food costs continue to rise and there is inadequate social support
- 

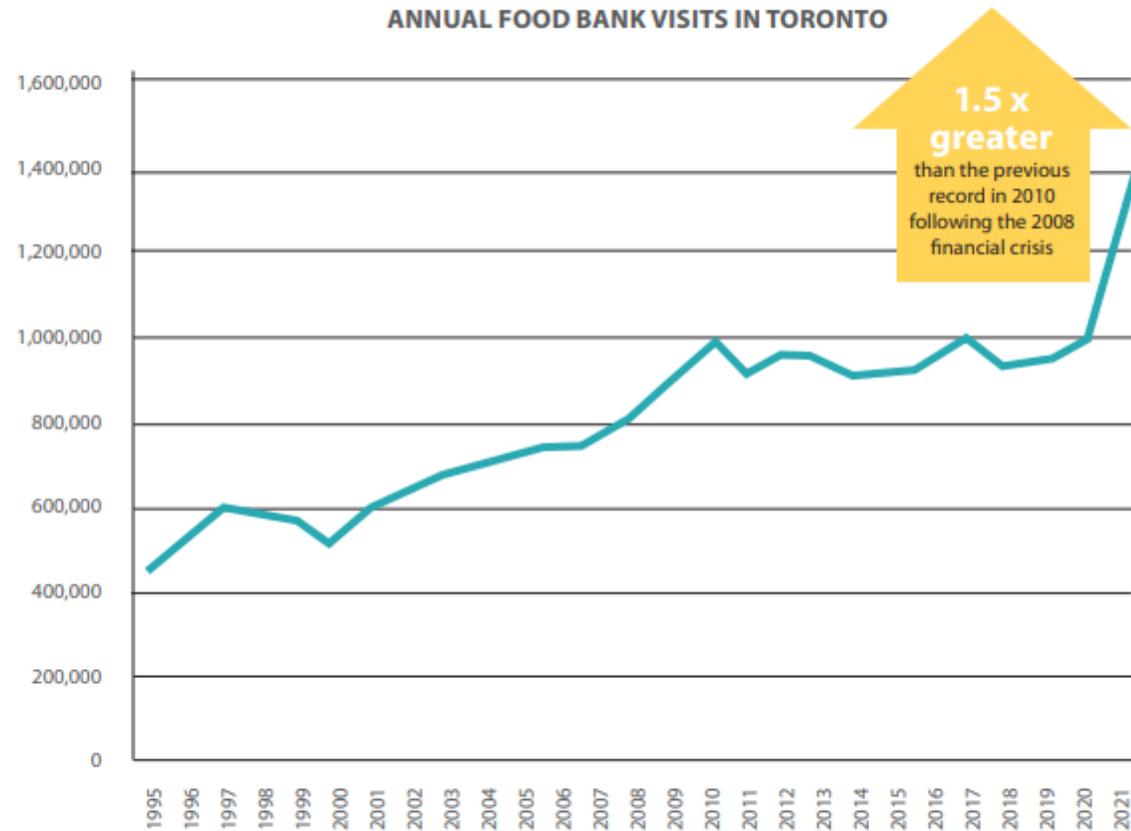
Daily Bread Food Bank: "Who's Hungry? 2021 Report"

1,449,780

**visits to Toronto
food banks**

47%

**increase in food banks visits
compared to year prior**



Based on food bank visits to Daily Bread Food Bank and North York Harvest member food banks between April 1 and March 31 each year.

Daily Bread Food Bank: "Who's Hungry? 2021 Report"

Demographics of Food Bank Clients in Toronto



GENDER

53%	Female
47%	Male
0.1%	Trans
0.2%	Another gender



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

54%	Single individual
13%	Single parent/guardian
14%	Two parents/guardians
6%	Couple with no children
13%	Other



AGE

29%	0-18
36%	19-44
25%	45-64
12%	65+

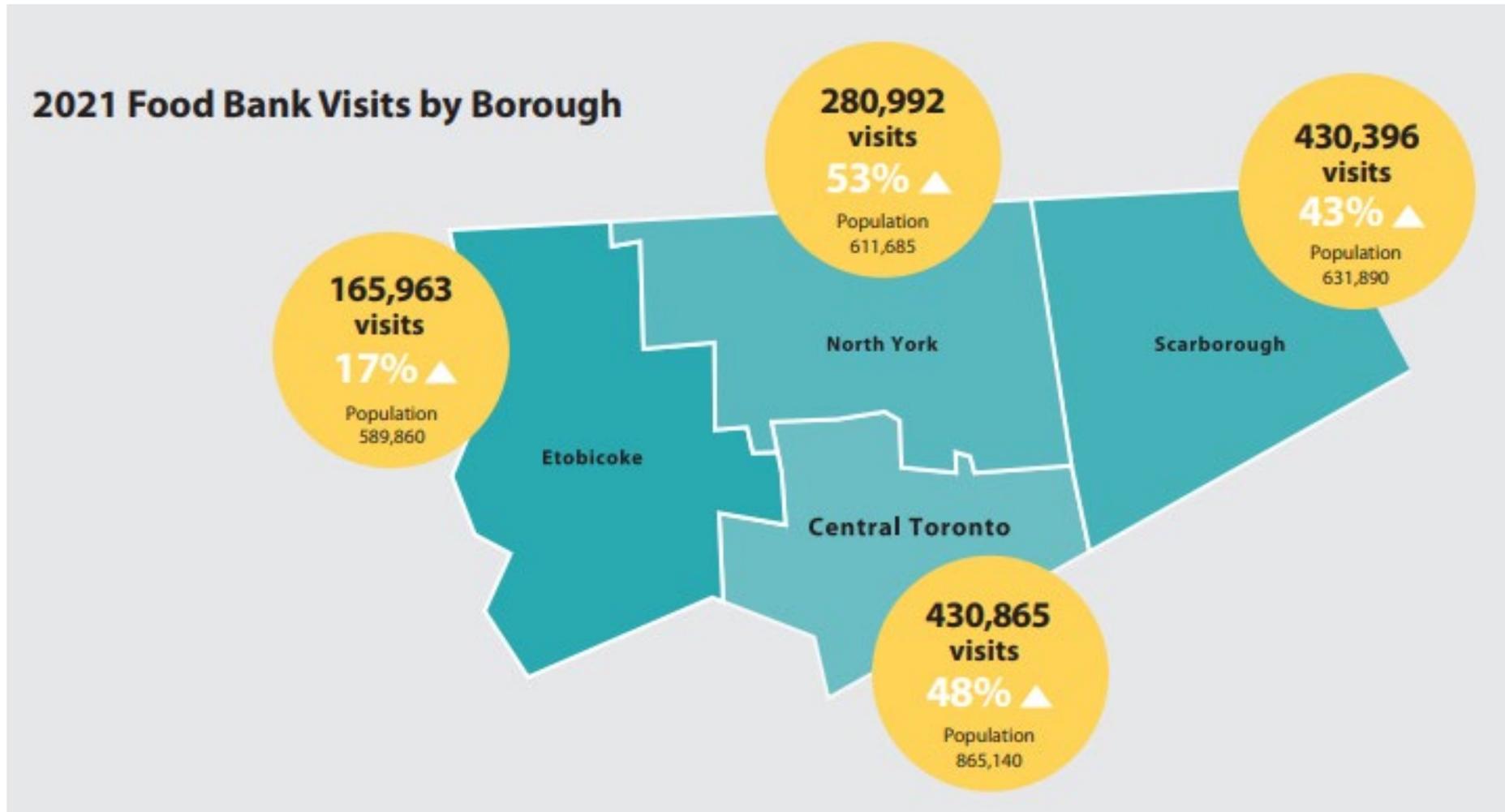


HOUSING STATUS

65%	Private rental
21%	Social housing
4%	Own home
3%	Stays with family/friends
2%	Emergency shelter
2%	Rooming house
1%	Sleeping in the rough

Based on client food bank visits between April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, tracked in Link2Feed.

Daily Bread Food Bank: "Who's Hungry? 2021 Report"



**Link to CBC article on
food insecurity in Canada**



<https://tinyurl.com/5fdb69a8>

**Link to UofT article on
food insecurity in Canada**



<https://tinyurl.com/462ujda9>

**Link to webpage on
food insecurity in Toronto**

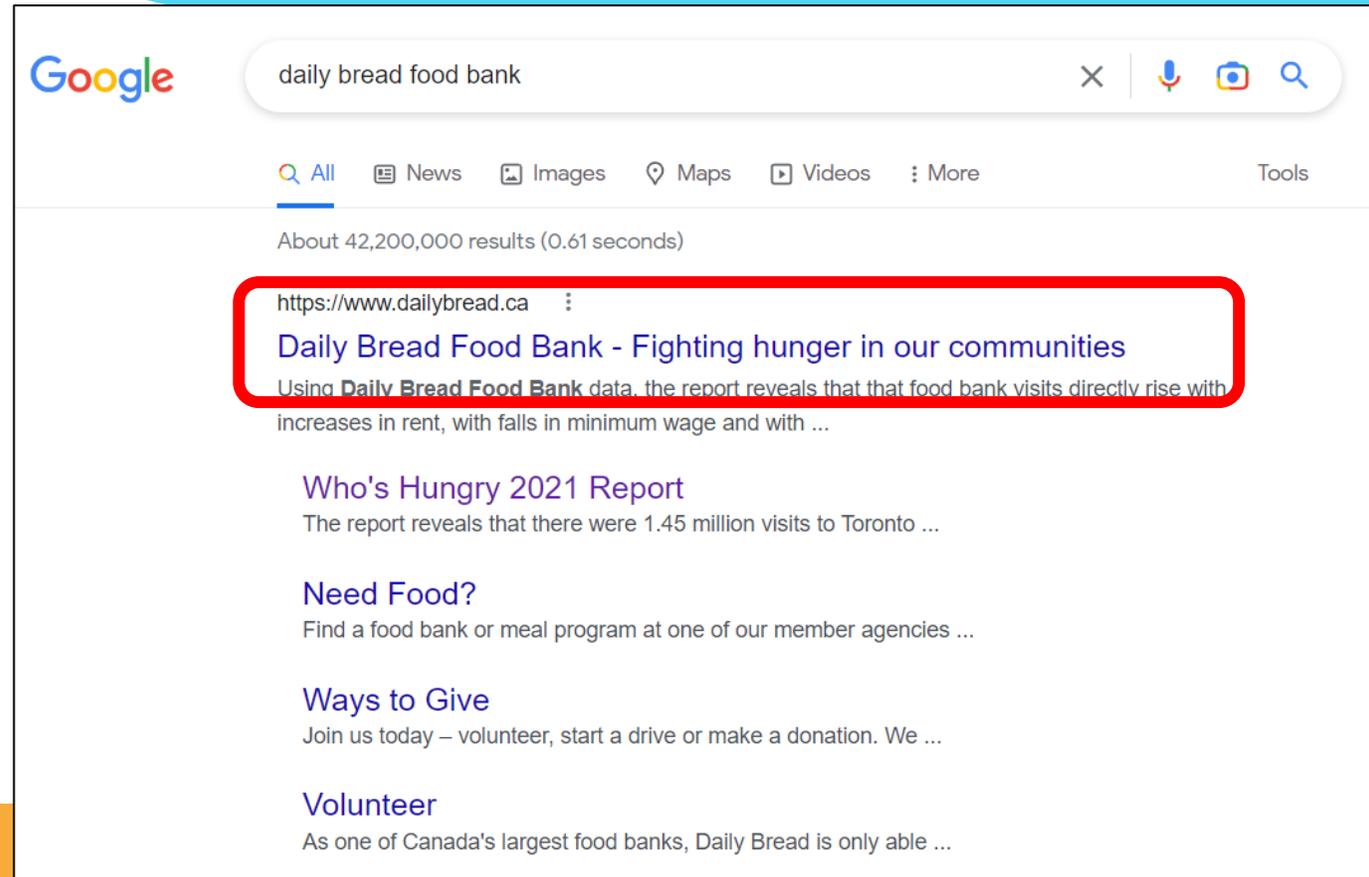


<https://tinyurl.com/4nz8u2u6>

Let's look at some
community resources

Daily Bread

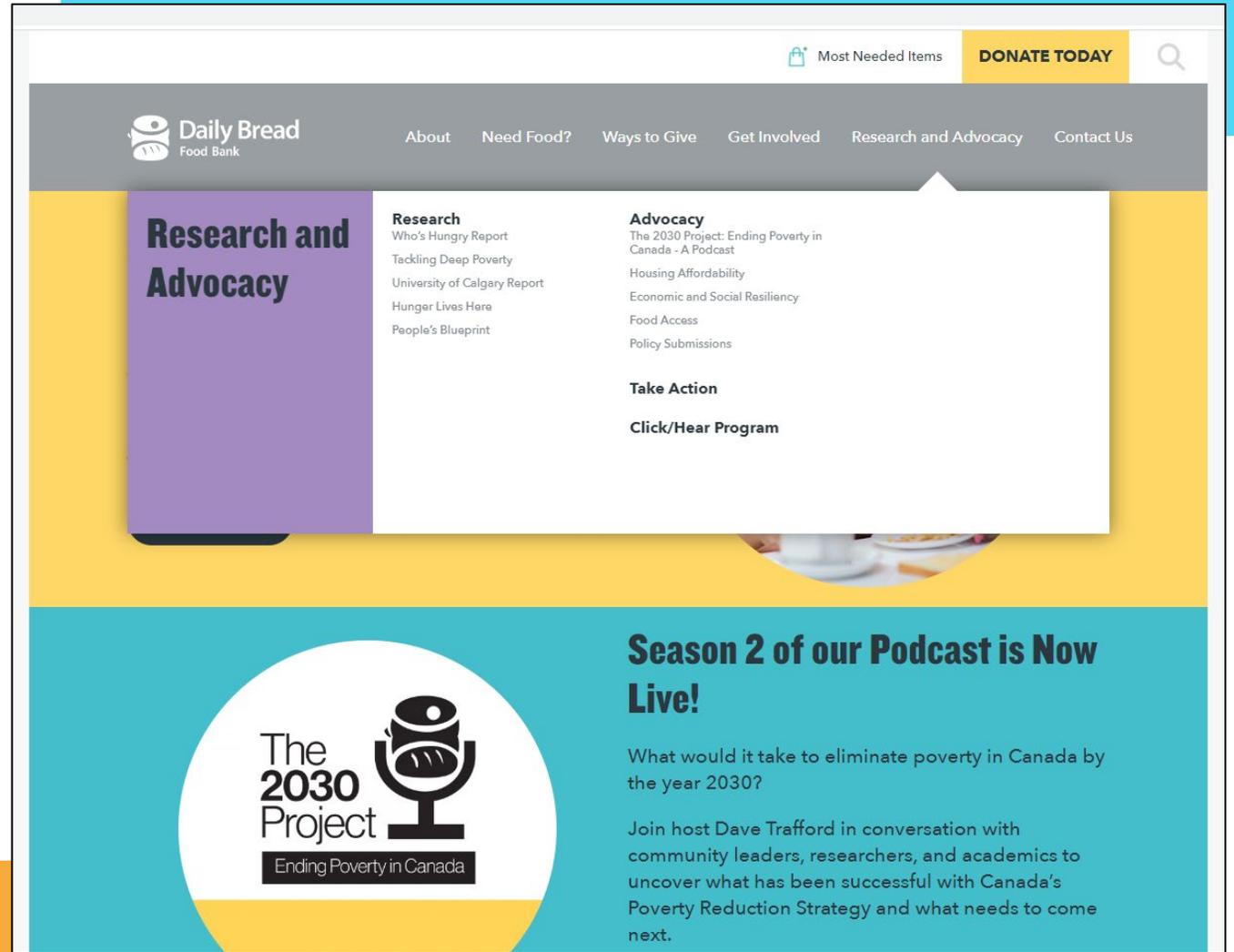
- To access more up-to-date statistics, you can search **"daily bread food bank"** in your browser
- Left-click the link that reads www.dailybread.ca
- You can also click any of the blue text below the main link to access shortcuts to a specific part of the website



Note: Daily Bread is one of Canada's largest food banks

Daily Bread

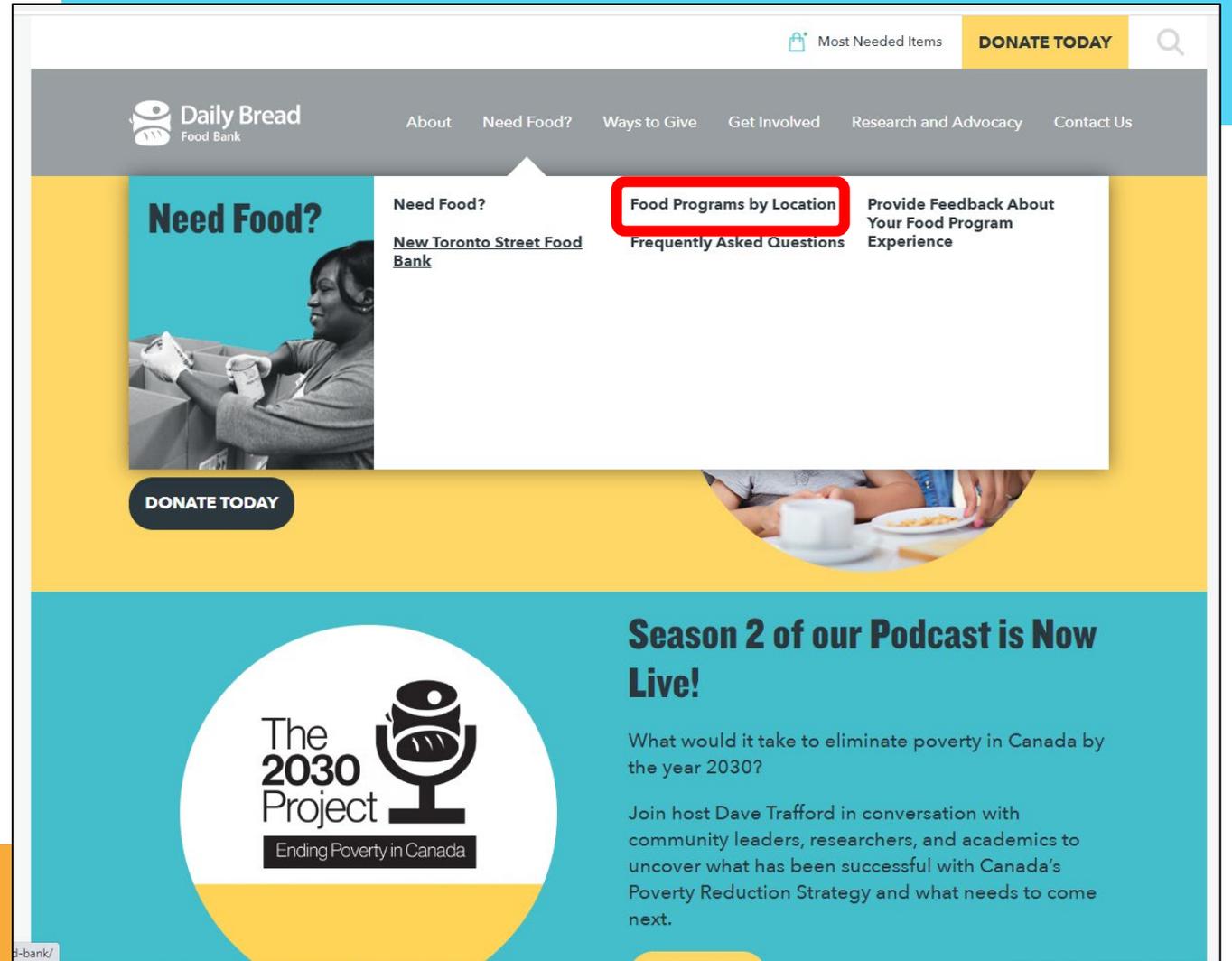
- Left-click the “research & advocacy” tab
- Left-click any of the topics or headings that interest you
- Some of the statistics and graphs shown earlier were taken from their **“Who’s Hungry Report”**



The screenshot shows the Daily Bread Food Bank website. At the top right, there are links for "Most Needed Items" and a yellow "DONATE TODAY" button. The main navigation bar includes "Daily Bread Food Bank" logo and links for "About", "Need Food?", "Ways to Give", "Get Involved", "Research and Advocacy", and "Contact Us". The "Research and Advocacy" section is highlighted with a purple sidebar. The content is organized into three columns: "Research" (listing "Who's Hungry Report", "Tackling Deep Poverty", "University of Calgary Report", "Hunger Lives Here", and "People's Blueprint"), "Advocacy" (listing "The 2030 Project: Ending Poverty in Canada - A Podcast", "Housing Affordability", "Economic and Social Resiliency", "Food Access", and "Policy Submissions"), and "Take Action" (with a "Click/Hear Program" link). Below this is a teal banner for "Season 2 of our Podcast is Now Live!" featuring a microphone icon and the text "The 2030 Project: Ending Poverty in Canada". The banner text asks "What would it take to eliminate poverty in Canada by the year 2030?" and invites users to join host Dave Trafford in conversation with community leaders, researchers, and academics to uncover what has been successful with Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy and what needs to come next.

Daily Bread

- If you're in-need of support, you can also left-click the **"need food?"** tab
- Left-click the **"food programs by location"** button to see a list of support programs around Toronto



The screenshot shows the Daily Bread Food Bank website. At the top right, there are links for 'Most Needed Items' and a 'DONATE TODAY' button. The main navigation bar includes 'Daily Bread Food Bank' logo, 'About', 'Need Food?', 'Ways to Give', 'Get Involved', 'Research and Advocacy', and 'Contact Us'. Below the navigation, there is a 'Need Food?' section with a 'DONATE TODAY' button. A dropdown menu is open under 'Need Food?', showing 'New Toronto Street Food Bank' and 'Food Programs by Location' (which is highlighted with a red box). Other options in the dropdown include 'Frequently Asked Questions' and 'Provide Feedback About Your Food Program Experience'. Below this, there is a section for 'Season 2 of our Podcast is Now Live!' featuring 'The 2030 Project' logo and a microphone icon, with the tagline 'Ending Poverty in Canada'. The text describes the podcast's focus on eliminating poverty in Canada by 2030 and mentions host Dave Trafford.

Daily Bread

- From here, you can quickly search for available programs based on your address
- Left-click the **"enter your location"** field and type in your location

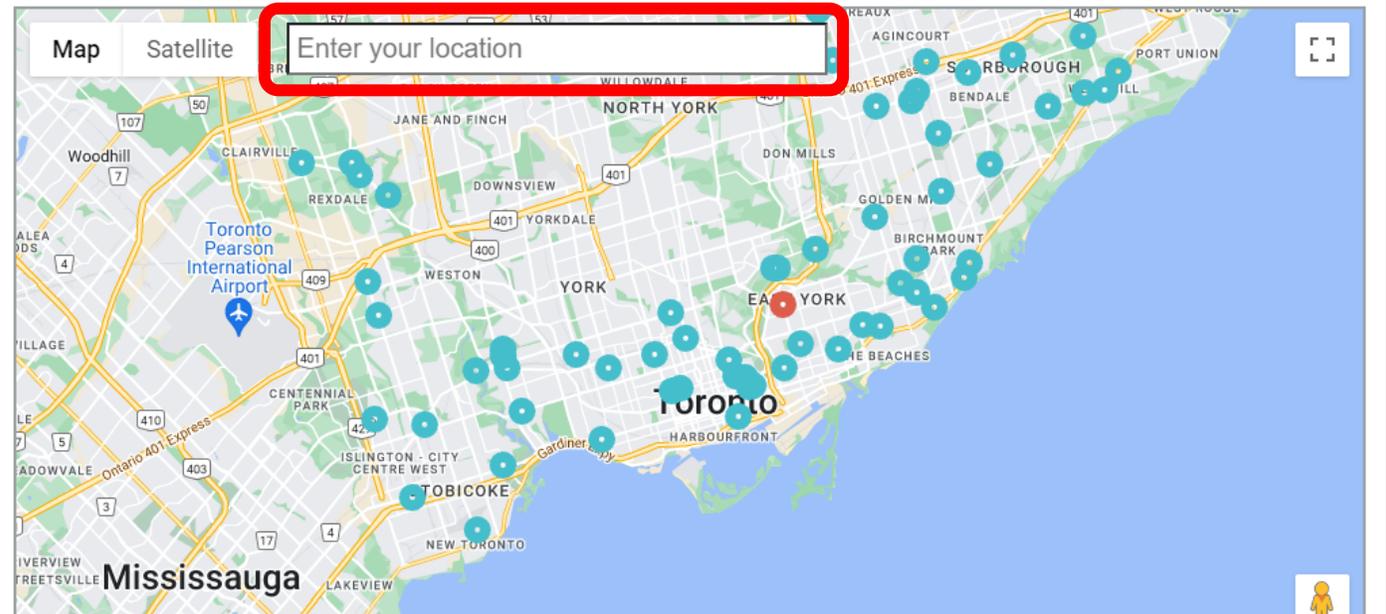
Food Programs by Location

To register as a new client of the Daily Bread Food Bank network, please **click here**. You will be able to access any food bank supported by Daily Bread using your Client ID.*

Below is a map of locations in the Daily Bread Food Bank Network. Click on the pins to see details for each location.

If you are experiencing issues registering online, please call **416.203.0050 x1**.

● Temporarily Closed



Daily Bread

- Use your mouse wheel to scroll down on the page
- Depending on the address you've just entered, you can see a list of active food support programs based on distance

Name	Address	Distance (KM) from your location
Mabelle Food Bank	49 Mabelle Ave, Toronto , ON	0.24
St James Food Basket	400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Toronto, ON	1.92
Haven on the Queensway	1533 The Queensway, Toronto, ON	2.83
Cooper Mills Gooch Community Food Bank	4020 Dundas St W, Toronto, ON	3.24
Christ Church St James Food Pantry	194 Park Lawn Road, Toronto, ON	3.68
Bloor West Food Bank	2305 Bloor St W, Toronto, ON	4.19
Four Villages Health Centre	3446 Dundas St W, Toronto, ON	4.33
Syme Family Food Bank	33 Pritchard Avenue, Toronto, Ontario	4.47
Syme Woolner Neighbourhood Association	190 Woolner Avenue - B1 Level, Toronto, ON	4.69
New Toronto Street Food Bank	191 New Toronto Street, Toronto, ON	4.73

Daily Bread

- Return to the top of the page
- To make full use of the Daily Bread network, an account is required
- Left-click the **"click here"** button to redirect to the account creation page

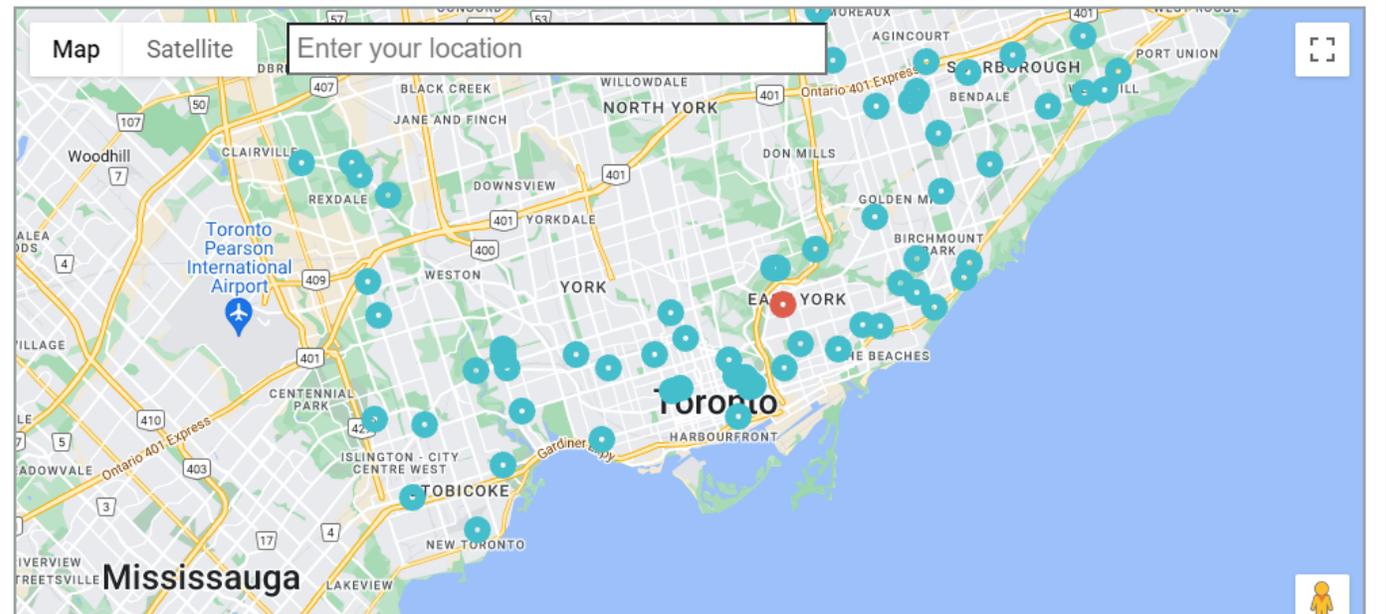
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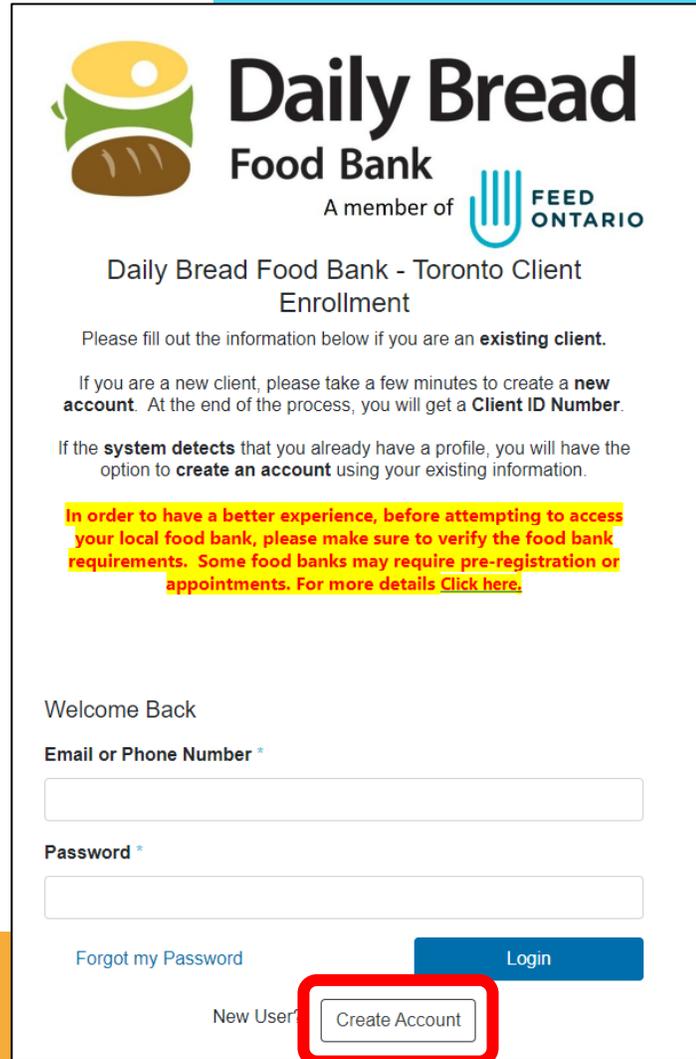
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● Temporarily Closed



Daily Bread

- At the bottom of the page, click the “create account” button to begin the process
- Follow the instructions shown in the following pages
- If you don't have an existing food bank client number, click “I don't have this” to proceed



 **Daily Bread**
Food Bank
A member of 

Daily Bread Food Bank - Toronto Client Enrollment

Please fill out the information below if you are an **existing client**.

If you are a new client, please take a few minutes to create a **new account**. At the end of the process, you will get a **Client ID Number**.

If the **system detects** that you already have a profile, you will have the option to **create an account** using your existing information.

In order to have a better experience, before attempting to access your local food bank, please make sure to verify the food bank requirements. Some food banks may require pre-registration or appointments. For more details Click here.

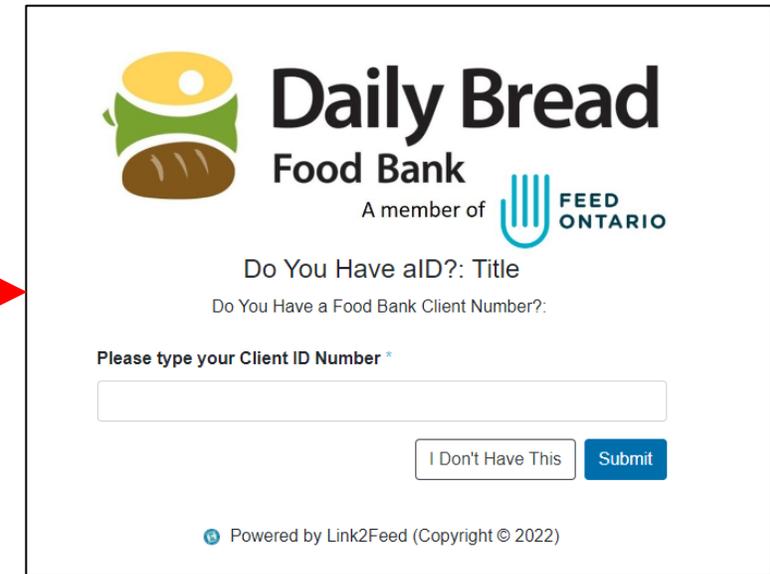
Welcome Back

Email or Phone Number *

Password *

[Forgot my Password](#)

New User?



 **Daily Bread**
Food Bank
A member of 

Do You Have aID?: Title

Do You Have a Food Bank Client Number?:

Please type your Client ID Number *

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ODSP Info

- ODSP – Ontario Disability Support Program
- Open your internet browser and search by typing in **"ODSP"** into the search bar
- Left-click the www.Ontario.ca link – this should be the first search result at the top

Note: if you've already checked requirements, click the "apply" button to begin your application

The image shows a screenshot of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) website. A red arrow points from a search bar at the top to the search results. A second red arrow points from a search result to the 'Apply for ODSP' button on the main page. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail, a search bar, a menu, and a 'Related' section with links to social assistance, COVID-19, MyBenefits, Ontario Works, and caseload statistics.

1. [Ontario Disability Support Program](#)
Mar 27, 2022 — Find information about income support, benefits for health costs and other disability supports from the **Ontario Disability Support Program** ...
[Health and disability benefits](#) · [Eligibility](#) · [Income support from ODSP](#)
You've visited this page 2 times. Last visit: 23/10/22

2. Ontario Français

[Home](#) > [Home and community](#)

Ontario Disability Support Program

Find information about income support, benefits for health costs and other disability supports from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

[Apply for ODSP](#)

Update
As of September 2022, we are increasing rates for ODSP by 5%.
This 5% increase applies to:
• singles and families:
◦ basic needs and shelter maximums
◦ board and lodge amounts
• amounts for services provided by a Long-Term Care Home or a Specialized Care Residence
This increase means that if you are a single person receiving \$1,169 a month from ODSP for basic needs and shelter, your ODSP payment would go up to \$1,228 a

Related
[Apply for social assistance](#)
[ODSP and COVID-19](#)
[Access and update your case information through MyBenefits](#)
[Ontario Works](#)
[Ontario Drug Benefit Program](#)
[Social assistance caseload statistics](#)

ODSP Info

- ODSP provides many health and disability-related support benefits
- These benefits can help you with different types of costs, including health, dental, vision, assistive devices, and other expenses related to disability or medical conditions

Ontario  Français

[Home](#) > [Home and community](#)

Ontario Disability Support Program

Find information about income support, benefits for health costs and other disability supports from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

[Apply for ODSP](#)

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Related

- [Apply for social assistance](#)
- [ODSP and COVID-19](#)
- [Access and update your case information through MyBenefits](#)
- [Ontario Works](#)
- [Ontario Drug Benefit Program](#)
- [Social assistance caseload statistics](#)

ODSP Info

- Scroll down and click the **"eligibility"** text highlighted in blue
- You can click on any of the other text highlighted in blue to find out more information about each topic
- A small summary of each title is provided below the links

Eligibility



Your eligibility for ODSP depends on medical and financial circumstances. Find out what information we look at when deciding your eligibility, and how much you can earn and keep in assets while being on ODSP. Learn how these affect your income support and eligibility on ODSP.

Health and disability benefits

See what help is available for health, dental, vision, and disability-related costs, for you and your family.

Employment supports

Find out how you can get help finding a job or advance your career if you have a disability, through ODSP employment supports. You don't have to be on ODSP to apply.

Income support for you and your family

If you are eligible to receive income support through ODSP, you receive a monthly payment.

Learn about how your living situation affects the amounts you receive.

Learn your rights and responsibilities

You have rights and responsibilities while on ODSP. Knowing what to expect and what you need to do under the program will help ensure that you get the support you are entitled to.

Working and earning

Find out about the benefits of working while on ODSP, including help with childcare and starting your own business. Learn how income affects your income support and how to report earnings.

ODSP Info

- You will be redirected to a page with additional information on ODSP
- You can left-click any of the blue text go to a specific section you want to learn about
- Left-click the eligibility shortcut to see if you qualify to apply

Ontario Disability Support Program eligibility for income support

Learn about the financial and medical information we use to determine if you are eligible for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), and what information you need to provide.

On this page

1. [Overview](#)
2. [Eligibility as a person with a disability](#) 
3. [Prescribed classes](#)
4. [Income](#)
5. [Assets](#)
6. [Buying disability-related items and services](#)
7. [Gifts and voluntary payments](#)
8. [Life insurance policies](#)
9. [Inheritances](#)
10. [Trusts](#)
11. [Medical reviews](#)
12. [Internal reviews and appeals](#)

ODSP Info

- This page shows you a small checklist of what allows someone to qualify for ODSP
- If you find that you qualify, you can return to the application page and click the **"apply for ODSP"** button

Eligibility as a person with a disability

To be eligible for ODSP as a person with disability you must meet the definition of disability under the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act*.

Being [a person with a disability](#) means:

- you have a substantial mental or physical impairment that is continuous or recurrent, and is expected to last one year or more
- the direct and cumulative effect of your impairment results in a substantial restriction in your ability to work, care for yourself, or take part in community life
- your impairment, its likely duration and restrictions have been verified by an approved health care professional

When you apply for ODSP, your caseworker will give you a Disability Determination Package for you and your health care professional(s) to complete.

You have 90 days to complete and return the package to the ministry's Disability Adjudication Unit. If you don't send it back within 90 days, we will consider your ODSP application withdrawn unless you make a written request for an extension and we approve it.

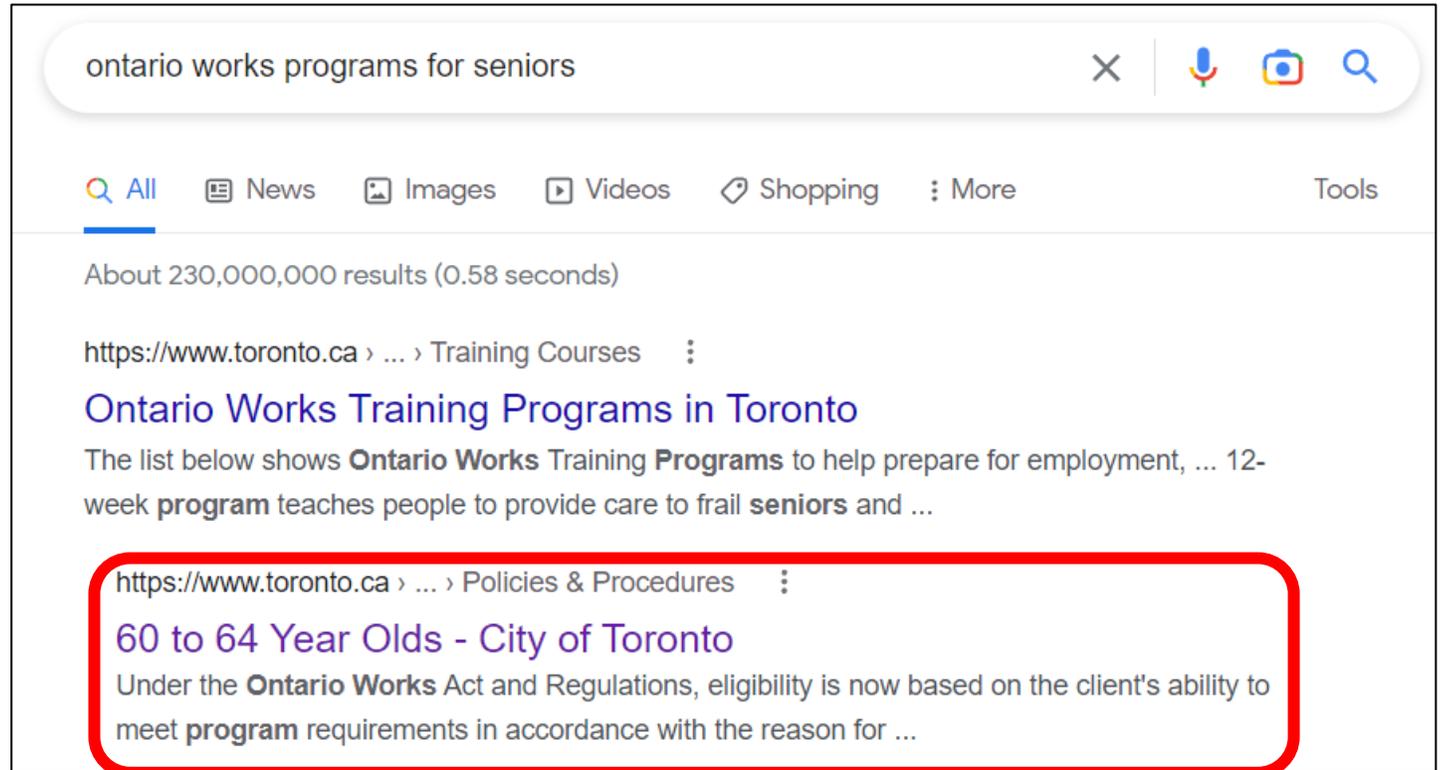
We will review your completed package to determine if you meet the program's definition of a person with a disability. This is called the Disability Determination Process.

If you meet the definition of a person with a disability, your local ODSP office will confirm that you still qualify financially. If you still qualify, you will receive income support.

If your disability or medical condition may improve, we will also give you a date for a medical review.

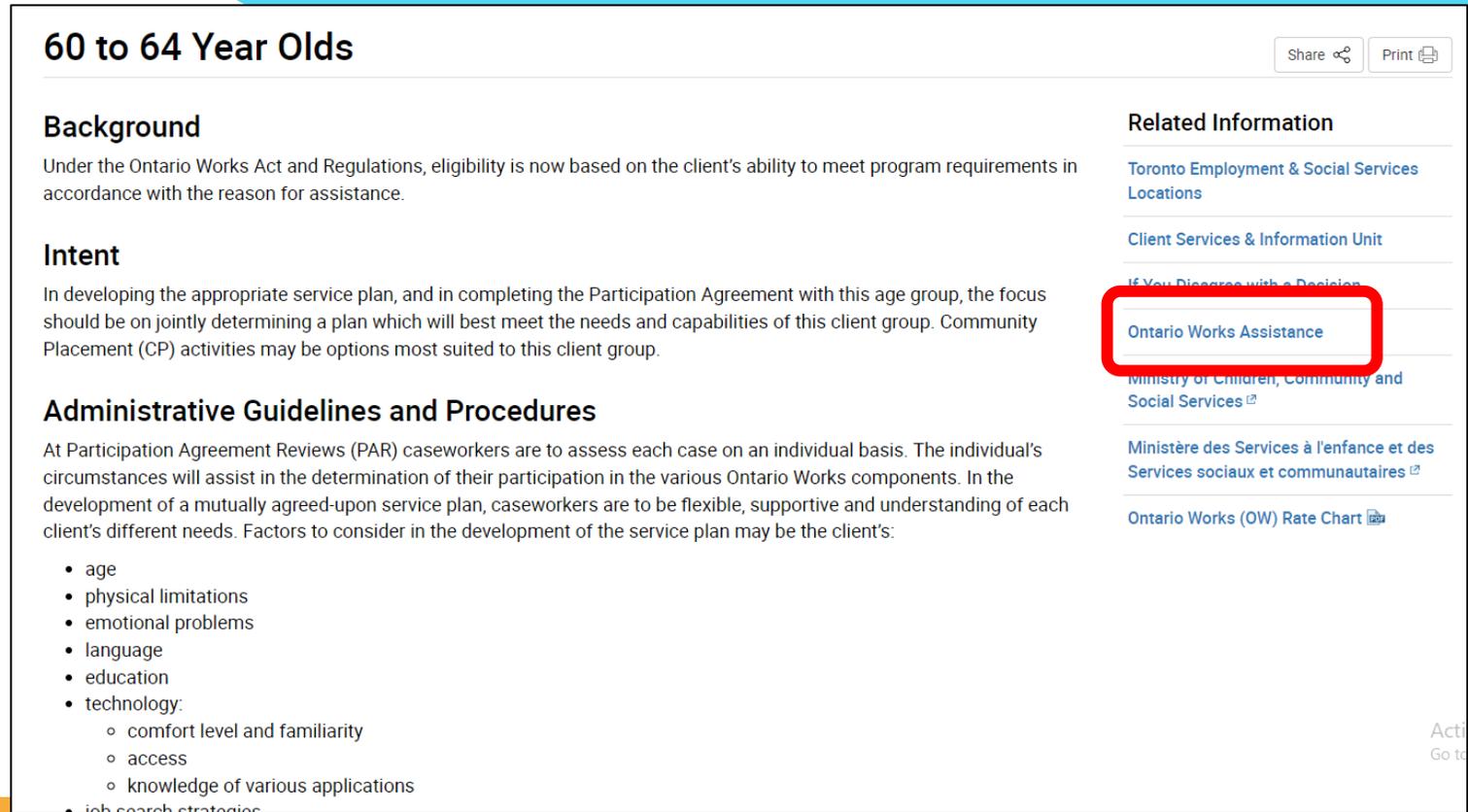
OW Info

- OW – Ontario Works provides benefits for those in need of financial or employment support
- You can search **“Ontario works program for seniors”** in your browser
- Left-click the link that reads **“60 to 64 year olds - city of Toronto”** to see seniors’ benefits



OW Info

- This page provides you with some basic information about OW for seniors
- You can view some of the OW programs by clicking on the **"Ontario works assistance"** tab



60 to 64 Year Olds Share Print

Background
Under the Ontario Works Act and Regulations, eligibility is now based on the client's ability to meet program requirements in accordance with the reason for assistance.

Intent
In developing the appropriate service plan, and in completing the Participation Agreement with this age group, the focus should be on jointly determining a plan which will best meet the needs and capabilities of this client group. Community Placement (CP) activities may be options most suited to this client group.

Administrative Guidelines and Procedures
At Participation Agreement Reviews (PAR) caseworkers are to assess each case on an individual basis. The individual's circumstances will assist in the determination of their participation in the various Ontario Works components. In the development of a mutually agreed-upon service plan, caseworkers are to be flexible, supportive and understanding of each client's different needs. Factors to consider in the development of the service plan may be the client's:

- age
- physical limitations
- emotional problems
- language
- education
- technology:
 - comfort level and familiarity
 - access
 - knowledge of various applications
- job search strategies

Related Information

- [Toronto Employment & Social Services Locations](#)
- [Client Services & Information Unit](#)
- [If You Disagree with a Decision](#)
- [Ontario Works Assistance](#)**
- [Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services](#)
- [Ministère des Services à l'enfance et des Services sociaux et communautaires](#)
- [Ontario Works \(OW\) Rate Chart](#)

OW Info

- If you're ready to apply, you can click the **"apply online"** button and begin following the instructions
- Otherwise, use your mouse wheel to scroll down on the page and see a list of different programs

Assistance Through Ontario Works

If you do not have enough money for food and housing and are in financial need, you can apply for Ontario Works assistance online.

[Apply Online](#)

You can also apply by calling 416-338-8888.

Ontario Works provides money for food, shelter and other costs to people in financial need who meet the eligibility criteria.

Financial Assistance may include money for food, shelter, clothing and other household costs, the cost of prescription medications, and other help with health costs.

Toronto delivers this provincial social assistance program according to the [Ontario Works Act](#). Les services sociaux et d'emploi de Toronto (Toronto Employment & Social Services) offrent des [services en français](#).

[How to Apply](#)

[Who Can Apply](#)

[Monthly Ontario Works Amounts](#)

[While Receiving](#)

Application Options for Ontario Works

Online Application

Apply online for Ontario Works assistance by visiting [Ontario.ca/socialassistance](https://ontario.ca/socialassistance).

Phone Application

To apply by phone, call the Toronto Application and Support Centre at 416-338-8888 and select option 3 or call our toll-free number at 1-888-465-4478. This line is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on weekends and public holidays. The call takes about 45 minutes.

For persons who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing, the TTY line is 416-392-2823.

OW Info

- At the bottom of the page you can see some of the benefits you may qualify for when applying for Ontario Works
- You can left-click any of the blue text to open a page with more details on each program

Other Ontario Works Benefits You May Receive

Please note: As part of the City's COVID-19 response, some benefits or services have been modified or suspended.

Beyond the [monthly Ontario Works amount](#), Ontario Works provides other supports for child and family, housing, employment and health.

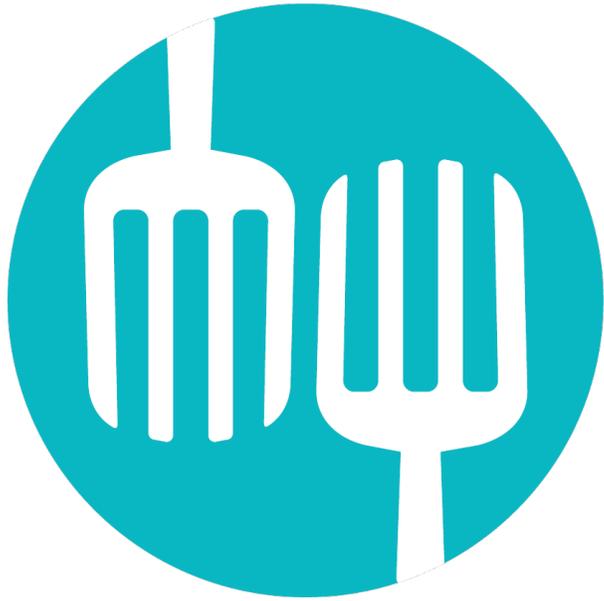
See below a list of additional Ontario Works benefits available to those eligible:

Show entries

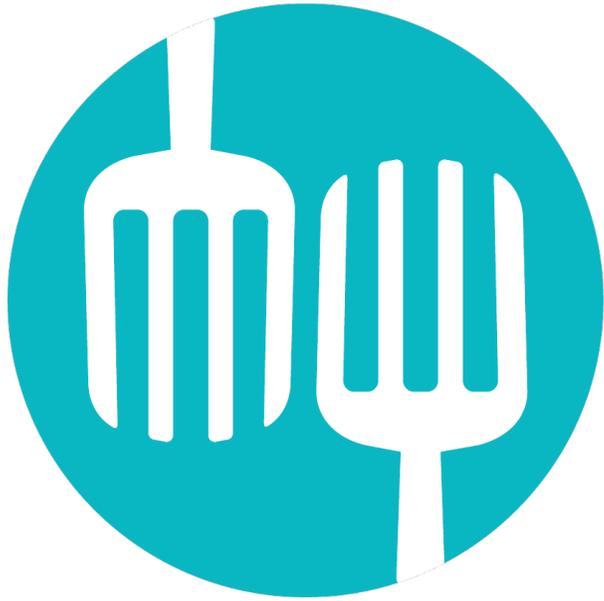
Search:

Type	Name	Description
Health Support	Medication	People on Ontario Works automatically qualify to have the cost of their prescription medications covered
Child & Family Support	Money for Young Parents Pursuing Education – LEAP Benefits	The Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) Program helps young parents on Ontario Works complete high school, get job ready and improve parenting skills through its three elements: Learning, Earning Parenting.
Child & Family Support	Money While Caring for Someone Else's Child – Temporary Care Assistance	Ontario Works Temporary Care Assistance can be paid to an adult who is temporarily caring for a child who is not their own, if the child is in financial need.
Child & Family Support	Money While Waiting for the Ontario Child Benefit – Transition Child Benefit	Most families on social assistance with children under 18 also receive the monthly Ontario Child Benefit (OCB). Parents on Ontario Works not yet receiving OCB payments may temporarily receive the Transition Child Benefit (TCB).
Child & Family Support	Subsidy for Recreation Programs – Welcome Policy	The City of Toronto's Welcome Policy provides a fee subsidy to help low income individuals and families who live in Toronto access City-operated recreation programs.
Child & Family Support/ Employment Support	Money for Child Care When Starting Work or Training – Child Care Start-Up Benefit	People on Ontario Works may receive money to pay one month of childcare in advance if this is required to start work or begin an employment assistance activity such as training.
Employment Support	Money for Employment-Related or Training Costs – Employment Related Expenses	People on Ontario Works may receive money for employment and school-related costs. This money can help with transportation and other related expenses.

**Let's look at some
additional resources**



- **Meals on Wheels (MOW)** - delivers nutritious, delicious and affordable meals to a variety of groups
- Website: www.mealsonwheels.ca



- serves seniors, people with physical disabilities and cognitive impairments, individuals suffering from illnesses and recovering from surgeries, and those who need special dietary planning and assistance



- **Feed it Forward** – “pay what you can” grocery store
- Website: **feeditforward.ca**
- Each item of fresh food or dry good is on a point system
 - For example: pay or donate \$5 and purchase \$20 of food



- **Community Fridges of Toronto** – “take what you want, leave what you can” style of food provision
- No website – fridges are volunteer run and provide food to anyone in need