
Passport Program Support Worker Temporary Wage Enhancement

What is the temporary wage enhancement?

October 1, 2020, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) announced a \$3.00 per hour temporary wage increase for support workers. The Ministry is making additional funding available to increase the pay received by support workers to recognize those who have been providing personal support services across Ontario, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Support workers (contract, part-time, full time) who support **Passport Program** participants, virtually, in their home, or in the community, with activities of daily living, community participation, and/or respite, are eligible for a temporary wage increase of \$3.00 per hour.

When is the temporary wage enhancement effective?

The temporary wage enhancement became effective **October 1, 2020**. It will end **March 31 2021**. All Passport Program eligible support hours must be claimed no later than **Monday March 22, 2021**. There will be **no** exceptions.

How will this work?

- ✓ The Passport Program participant or family is responsible for negotiating the \$3.00 per hour wage increase with their support worker or workers, for the period **October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021**
- ✓ If support hours worked since October 1, 2020, have already been claimed, and reimbursed by PassportONE, the Passport Program participant/family must submit an additional invoice to PassportONE for each support worker, showing \$3.00 per hour (the wage increase) for the total number of hours worked during this period of time. PassportONE will issue reimbursement for the additional \$3.00 per hour, and the Passport Program participant/family is required to pay the support worker(s) the additional \$3.00 per hour wage enhancement for the number of hours worked. (See claim sample attached)
- ✓ Going forward, claims for support hours worked between now and March 22, 2021, must reflect the number of support hours in each pay period at the hourly rate paid **before** the wage enhancement. The claim must include a separate line (on the same claim) indicating the same number of hours at \$3.00 per hour. (See attached sample)
- ✓ All support hours must be submitted to PassportONE **prior to March 22, 2021**. Please estimate the number of support hours that will be purchased between March 22, 2021 and March 31, 2021, and include those hours on the final claim you submit **on or prior to March 22, 2021**.

Additional Important Information

Funding required to pay the \$3.00 per hour wage increase, from October 1, 2020 until March 31, 2021, will **NOT** be deducted from the Passport participant's Passport funding approval amount.

Funding required to pay the \$3.00 per hour temporary wage increase is **additional** funding being issued by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This funding is completely separate and apart from individual Passport Program funding approvals.

Funding to cover the additional \$3.00 per hour will end March 31, 2021. There will be **NO** additional funding available for the temporary wage increase to continue beyond March 31, 2021.

There will be no increase to individual Passport Program funding approval amounts as a result of this temporary measure.

If you have questions and/or require additional information regarding the temporary wage increase, please visit the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services website:

<https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/programs/developmental/servicesupport/temp-wage-increase.aspx>

Additional wage enhancement information has also been posted on the Developmental Services Ontario website:

<https://www.dsontario.ca/passport-program/important-information>

Or you can contact the Passport Agency at the Community Services Coordination Network by calling 519.438.4783 or (toll-free) 1.877.480.2726 – Please leave a message at extension:

*193, and your call will be returned as quickly as possible.

