

Canada Disability Benefit

Policy primer | Oct 2024



Living with a disability shouldn't mean living with food insecurity. But in Canada, **30 percent of households where the main income earner has a disability have difficulty putting food on the table.**¹

The problem is poverty. People with disabilities are much more likely to live in poverty than people without disabilities. In Canada, **over 1.1 million people with a disability live below the poverty line.**² And because disabilities create additional costs, like medication and personal care, it's even harder for people with disabilities to afford food.

That's why Community Food Centres Canada is calling on the federal government to **adequately fund the new *Canada Disability Benefit (CDB)*.**

The CDB must help end disability poverty for all people with disabilities.

**The CDB rollout
starts in July 2025**

**We need
to act now.**

How should the CDB be improved?

The CDB is a new federal income support program for people with disabilities who are living on low incomes. It's a vital benefit but it falls far short.

First and foremost, eligibility must broaden beyond people who receive the difficult to access [Disability Tax Credit](#).

The CDB also needs two more enhancements:

- **The amount must increase.** The median annual income for people with disabilities is \$32,870, compared to \$39,490 for people without. The \$200 per month from this benefit won't close this gap and certainly isn't enough to help people with disabilities afford their basic needs, including nourishing food.³
- **The CDB must operate in addition to other government programs.** The federal government must safeguard the CDB from any provincial, territorial, or federal clawbacks.

How would an enhanced CDB help?

- An enhanced CDB would restore dignity, provide financial stability, and improve health outcomes for people living in disability poverty.
- It would reduce food insecurity among people with disabilities and expand access to specialty foods required to manage specific conditions.
- An adequate CDB would remove the burden of choosing between buying food and meeting other essential needs, like paying rent and buying medications, medical equipment, and medical supplies.



Join us in calling for an enhanced Canada CDB!

Share this primer with [your MP](#) and call on them to support an enhanced CDB!

Learn about our [Poverty Action Unit](#) or contact us at pau@cfccanada.ca.

Notes

1. Uppal, S. (2023, November 14). *Food insecurity among Canadian families*. Statistics Canada.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2023001/article/00013-eng.htm>
2. Statistics Canada. (2024, April 26). *Canadian Income Survey, 2022*.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240426/dq240426a-eng.htm>
3. Statistics Canada. (2023, December 1). *The Daily—Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017 to 2022*.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/231201/dq231201b-eng.htm>

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CANADA good food is just the beginning