



COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund

OBJECTIVE

Limit the spread of COVID-19 on the farm and improve the health and safety of all agricultural workers, both Canadian and temporary foreign workers.

This can be achieved through on-farm measures such as: improving living quarters and workstations, creating temporary or emergency housing arrangements, providing personal protective equipment and installing sanitation stations.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The complete application for financial assistance must be sent to La Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) before **February 26, 2021**.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible under the Program, you must:

- be registered with the MAPAQ, in accordance with the *Regulation respecting the registration of agricultural operations and the payment of property taxes and compensations*, at the time of application.
- have incurred, between **March 15, 2020**, and **February 26, 2021**, eligible expenses to limit the spread of COVID-19 within your business and to ensure the health and safety of your workers.
- not have received other government assistance for the expenses you are claiming.
- have had a total of 10 employees at your employ at the same time, for a minimum of 4 weeks, and who worked at least 25 hours with pay on a weekly basis.
- have presented an arm's length salary expense of at least \$50,000 as part of your financial statements for the last available year, or plan to accumulate this amount by the end of the current fiscal year.
- have complied with the laws and regulations in force with respect to the applicable health rules adopted by Québec and Canadian public authorities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The assistance offered is a lump sum equal to 2% of the arm's length wage expenditure submitted by the business for the previous year.

A 0.4% bonus will be calculated if your business is majority owned by one or more persons from the targeted groups, i.e., women, young people under 40, Indigenous, visible minorities or persons with disabilities

You may apply for a higher or lower amount of assistance than the lump sum allowance. Under these circumstances, the financial assistance may represent up to 50% of the total eligible expenses, or 60% if your business is majority owned by one or more of the individuals eligible for the bonus.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

Financial assistance is limited to \$100,000. An initial advance of 35% of the assistance will be paid following the processing of the application. The final amount will be paid at the end of the registration period, i.e. after February 26, 2021.

The final amount per business may differ, in order to abide by the emergency fund's available budget limit.

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For producers with an existing FADQ file:

Fill out the form in your online file under the Transactional Services tab. If you have forgotten your username or password, you can reset them directly in the user authentication window.

For producers without a FADQ file:

- Contact the service centre in your area to open your client file and your online file.
- Fill out the form in your online file under the Transactional Services tab.

To register online:

<https://www.fadq.gc.ca/en/on-line-services/section-for-producers/how-do-i-register-to-the-on-line-file/>

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Workspace adjustment expenses:

- modification of processes and treatment stations to allow for physical distancing;
- equipment such as safety barriers (Plexiglas partitions);
- wash stations;
- systems for taking body temperature or detecting fever (including thermal analyzers);
- disinfection and cleaning in the event of an outbreak on the farm; and
- facility or site modification to meet COVID-19 requirements.

Farm housing improvement fees:

- Modifications or upgrades to heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, purchase or lease of additional on-farm housing and portable buildings.

Off-farm housing expenses:

- Off-farm housing expenses in the event of an outbreak or as a preventive measure.

Transportation expenses:

- Adjustments in transportation to ensure physical distancing when moving around the farm or between housing and the farm.

Cost of disposable and non-disposable personal protective equipment (maximum of \$10,000):

- sanitation, disinfection, and cleaning products, protective eyewear and visors, masks and face covers, including N95 masks;
- particle filters and gas/vapour cartridges;
- safety glasses, disposable gloves; and
- breathing masks that cover half or the entire face.

Training and interpretation expenses:

- Interpretation services and training on COVID-19 protocols.

NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

The following expenses, among others, are not eligible:

- ongoing operational expenses not related to COVID-19;
- labour and meal expenses;
- expenses related to retail or other on-site sales activities;
- expenses for personal protective equipment that was required prior to COVID-19;
- expenses related to the Quarantine Act for the isolation of temporary foreign workers; and
- usual capital and machinery expenses, purchase of land and applicable taxes (GST and QST).

LOSING THE RIGHT TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A farm loses all rights to financial assistance in the following circumstances:

- It makes a false declaration in order to obtain the financial assistance.
- It does not comply with the terms of payment of the financial assistance.
- It is under the authority of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, is the subject of proceedings under that Act, or steps are being taken for its liquidation or dissolution.
- It does not comply with the laws and regulations in effect regarding the applicable health rules adopted by Québec and Canadian public authorities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, is the subject of legal proceedings or refuses to comply with such laws and regulations.

This summary cannot in any way take precedence over the provisions set out in the Emergency On-Farm Support Fund and the regulations currently in effect

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