

Financial Assistance Plan

Leaving an abusive relationship is difficult and may lead to economic instability, increased risk of homelessness, possible job loss or difficulty getting employment. Survivors may need to rely on food banks and other resources to help them meet their needs. Consider reaching out to services that provide financial assistance to support you in your goal of living a life free of violence.

Victim Quick Response Program +, Halton Regional Police – Victim Services Unit, 905-825-4810

Made available by the Ministry of the Attorney General and delivered through the Victim Services Unit of the Halton Regional Police, this program provides short-term financial assistance to victims in the aftermath of a violent crime such as domestic violence or sexual assault. Eligible expenses that can be accessed through the VQRP + Program include crime scene clean-up expenses, emergency accommodation, meals, personal care items, emergency child or dependent care, cell phones, emergency home safety expenses, and counselling. There are specific eligibility guidelines but to find out whether this program is right for you, please contact the Victim Services Unit of the Halton Regional Police at 905-825-4810. See reverse page for list of eligible expenses and time frames (date reported to referring agency or police)

Ontario Works – 1-866-442-5866

For those who qualify, financial assistance may be available to help you cover the costs of your basic needs and employment assistance to help you prepare and find a job. To access service, you will require the following documentation:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Birth Certificate/Health Card (OHIP) | ☐ Housing information (landlord info, lease/rental agreement, mortgage) |
| ☐ Social Insurance Number | ☐ List of assets |
| ☐ Citizenship or verification of Canadian status | ☐ Sources of income |
| ☐ Banking information (account #/ branch #) | ☐ School verification (if applicable) |
| | ☐ Employment history |

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) – 905-637-4500

ODSP helps eligible people with disabilities by providing income support and employment support. There are two parts to this application process that include a financial assessment and a health/disability assessment. To apply you require the following documentation:

- ☐ Birth certificate/immigration papers
- ☐ Social Insurance Number, Ontario Health card
- ☐ Rent receipts, mortgage statements, utility bills
- ☐ Banking information
- ☐ Evidence of trusteeship or power of attorney
- ☐ Assets/income information

Halton Housing – 311 or 905-825-6000 or 1-866-442-5886

Halton Housing offers Special Priority for survivors of domestic violence. If approved, while waiting for permanent offer of government assisted housing you can access Portable Housing Benefit. This program can support you for first/last month rent, an advocate to help with negotiating a lease, and monthly housing benefit after moving. Contact Halton Housing or visit their website to learn more about eligibility and the application process.

Halton Community Legal Services – 905-875-2069

A community legal clinic providing legal services (information and advice) to low-income residents regarding Ontario Works, Tenants Rights, Disability Benefits, and Employments Insurance and Standards.

Contact by phone or through the website <https://www.haltonlegal.ca/contact/>

Legal Aid – 1-800-668-8258

Legal Aid Ontario provides a number of different programs for those who qualify financially, including: (a) certificates to cover the cost of lawyer, (b) summary advice and information from a lawyer for up to 20 minutes; (c) Separation Agreement Certificates which cover the cost of a family lawyer to help negotiate and prepare a separation agreement, for those who qualify financially; (d) legal advice on mediation services for individuals who identify as First Nations, Metis, and Inuit. If you self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuit advise Legal Aid Ontario Staff.

Legal Aid Ontario offers family law certificates for low-income individuals and families experiencing domestic violence. These can be used to help

with family matters such as creating a separation agreement, and/or going to family court. Financial eligibility is determined through a financial assessment, where Legal Aid will ask about assets such as bank balances and properties. The toll-free number to apply for the certificate program is 1-800-668-8258. More information about the program and eligibility requirements can be found at <https://www.legalaid.on.ca/services/domestic-abuse/>

Those in Halton can connect with Halton Women's Place to access two-hours of free legal advice in relation to family law and immigration and refugee law matters through Legal Aid Ontario's domestic violence legal advice program. More information around this program can be found by contacting the Crisis, Information and Support Line at Halton Women's Place at 905-332-7892 (Halton South) or 905-878-8555 (Halton North).

Credit Canada – 1-800-267-2272

Confidential and free financial and credit counselling by Certified Credit Counsellors. Services include: review debt, budget support and advice, support with collection calls, decreasing interest and monthly payments, support with your credit report and credit score, money management tips.

Food Assistance

Throughout Halton Region there are various food supports that may be available to you. Contact 311 on your telephone to inquire about one close to you, or search on-line to locate a nearby food bank (<https://www.halton.ca/Repository/Where-to-Get-Food-in-Halton>).

Canadian Tire JumpStart Program

Financial support is available to parents to provide access to children of all abilities to organized sports. Financial support includes costs associated with equipment, transportation and registration fees. To learn more or to apply on-line or with support from a community organization, visit <http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca> .

Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP+) Standards

Table 1: VQRP Eligible Expenses

Appendix A:

Supports, Maximum Allowances and Timelines for Application for all Crime Types (except for Direct Victims of Human Trafficking *)

Expense Type	Maximum (incl HST)	Submission Deadline
Counselling/Indigenous Health Services	\$1,000	6 months from date of crime
Counselling/Indigenous Health Services for children under 18	\$1,000	6 months from date of disclosure
Counselling/Indigenous Health Services for victims of historical child sexual abuse	\$1,000	90 days from date of disclosure
Window (damaged or broken) * *	\$550	45 days from date of crime/ date of release from bail
Lock (damaged or broken) * *	\$175	
Door (damaged or broken) * *	\$900	
Dead bolts, bars, peepholes * *	\$300	
Window contact alarms * *	\$50	
Window/door stops/guards * *	\$50	
Motion sensors * *	\$200	
Accommodation * *	\$ 150/ day (\$500 max)	45 days from date of crime
Aids for victims with disabilities	\$1,000	
Basic necessities	\$75	
Care for dependents and pets	\$200	
Cellular phone, activation, cellular minutes, SIM card, charging cables * *	\$200	
Crime scene clean-up	\$1,500	
Dental	\$1,000	
Eye glasses and exams	\$300	
Funeral expenses	\$5,000	
Graffiti removal	\$400	
Interpretation services	\$750	
Storage locker	\$600	
Personal alarm	\$50	
Government and medical documents	\$300	
Meals and Groceries	\$ 40/ day (\$200 max)	
Transportation and parking for medical treatment, to visit victim in hospital, to identify homicide victim * *	\$300	
Transportation to safe accommodation	\$800	
Transportation associated with counselling * *	\$250	6 months from date of crime or date of disclosure
Transportation to fly-in community for Traditional Indigenous Health Services	\$2,250	6 months from date of crime or date of disclosure
Serious Injury Supports	\$1,000	1 year from date of crime
Homicide Survivor Support	\$5,000	1 year from date deemed a homicide

* One-year application timeline set out in Appendix B applies to immediate family members of direct victims of HT and witnesses of HT.

** Eligible for one-time allowance of up to \$300.

*** Please note the above amounts represent the MAXIMUM allowable amount.