Dental care for low-income seniors

Learn how to access free, routine dental care for eligible seniors 65 years or older, through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program. The program is designed to support low-income seniors.

About the program

The new Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program is a government-funded dental care program. It provides free, routine dental services for low-income seniors who are **65 years of age or older**.

Coverage includes:

- check-ups, including scaling, fluoride and polishing
- repairing broken teeth and cavities
- x-rays
- removing teeth or abnormal tissue (oral surgery)
- anesthesia
- treating infection and pain (endodontic services)
- treating gum conditions and diseases (periodontal services)

Dentures

Dental prosthetics (prosthodontic services), including dentures, will be partially covered. Please speak to your local public health unit for more information.

Coverage period

Once you are enrolled in the program, your coverage period is for up to one year.

Your coverage will end on July 31st every year, no matter when you enroll. <u>Learn more about</u> renewing your yearly coverage.

Eligibility

You can apply for the program if you:

- are 65 years of age or older
- are a resident of Ontario
- meet the income requirements:
 - o an annual net income of \$19,300 or less for a single senior
 - o a combined annual net income of \$32,300 or less for a couple

 have no other form of dental benefits, including private insurance or dental coverage under another government program such as Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program or Non-Insured Health Benefits

We will verify your income using your Social Insurance Number (SIN), that you will provide when you apply to the program. We will use your SIN to verify your annual new income from your tax return. Learn how you can apply if you don't have a SIN.

How to apply

You can apply to the program online or by mail.

If you and your spouse or common-law partner are applying to the program, you must submit two separate applications.

Before you begin the online application, you need:

- your date of birth
- a valid Ontario address
- your Social Insurance Number (SIN) or Temporary Taxation Number (TTN)
- to have filed your taxes last year

If you do not have a SIN or did not file taxes in the previous year, please complete the <u>Ontario</u> <u>Seniors Dental Care Program application through guarantor form.</u>

Apply online

To apply online:

- 1. Complete the online application.
- 2. Print and fill out the consent form.
- 3. Mail the completed consent form within 30 days to:

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Station P, P.O. Box 159 Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S7

Apply by mail

To apply by mail:

1. Download and print the application form, or get one in person from your local public health unit.

- 2. Fill out and complete the application form.
- 3. Mail the completed form to:

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Station P, P.O. Box 159 Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S7

If you don't have a SIN or did not file a tax return

If you don't have a SIN or didn't file your taxes last year, a guarantor must help you apply by mail.

A guarantor is someone who can confirm the identity, age and residency of the individual or couple applying to the program. The guarantor must be:

- a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years of age

If more than one person in your household is applying, you only need one guarantor per household.

List of eligible guarantors

A guarantor must be a practicing member, in good standing with a provincial regulatory body, serving as a:

- doctor (physician or surgeon)
- nurse
- dentist or dental hygienist
- optometrist
- pharmacist
- psychologist
- chiropractor
- midwife
- veterinarian
- lawyer
- professional accountant
- professional engineer
- social worker or social service worker
- teacher, vice-principal or principal in a primary or secondary school
- dietitian
- judge or Justice of the Peace
- municipal, provincial or First Nations police officer or constable
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officer or constable

- mayor
- member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
- minister of religion authorized under provincial law to perform marriages
- municipal clerk or treasurer who is a member of the Association of Municipal Managers or Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
- notary public
- professor in a university, a senior administrator in a community college
- signing officer of a bank

After you apply

Once you have completed and submitted your application form, you will be contacted by phone and/or mail if there are any issues with your application or if your application is incomplete.

If your application is approved, you will receive a welcome package and dental card in the mail that will expire on July 31st.

The welcome package will tell you:

- how to access services
- where to book an appointment
- how to book an appointment
- what you need to bring to each appointment

You **must present your card** to your dental provider **at each visit** to receive services under the program.

Find a participating dentist

For information about where to access services and what services are available near you, **please** contact your local <u>public health unit</u>.

If you are accepted into the program, you can access dental services through:

- Public Health Units
- partner Community Health Centres
- partner Aboriginal Health Access Centres

Access to the full range of dental services will vary across the province. The program will continue to expand in the coming year.

Renew your yearly coverage

Every year, eligibility will be automatically verified for most clients to confirm enrolment for the next benefit period.

You will be notified by mail if you are eligible to keep participating in the program, or about how to re-apply to the program, if required.

You must reapply if:

- you applied using a guarantor
- you do not file taxes for the most recent tax years that your eligibility is being determined

Change your account information

If you are enrolled in the program and would like to make changes to your account, you must complete and submit a change of information form.

Mail your completed form to:

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Station P, P.O. Box 159 Toronto, ON M5S 2S7

Questions and resources

If you have any questions or need to replace your dental card, please contact the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program:

Tel: 416-916-0204

Toll-free: 1-833-207-4435 Toll-free TTY: 1-800-855-0511

Your local public health unit can also help you apply to the program.

The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) contacts clients by phone or mail. We do not send invoices. If you receive a suspicious email claiming to be from the OSDCP program, please do not open attachments or click on links in the email. Contact us using the above information to determine if the message is authentic.