

Quick reference to the **OCBE** - full ministry directive posted on website.

Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent Pooled Fund

- Fund was established July 2007 with a one-time down payment, and monthly deposits commencing July 2008.
- Fund came into effect Nov 14 2008.
- The fund is to be designated to a separate bank account and is to be accessed for youth 0-17 to access recreational, educational, cultural, and social opportunities. (Activities fund).
- Sep 2009 CAS's to move a portion of the fund into a separate account for CW youth ages 15-17 (Savings Fund).
- The Savings program is to help youth develop financial skills, and to set them up for independent living.
- Access is to be set up through a youth's Plan of care.
- Both funds are to assist youth with higher educational achievement, higher resiliency, social skills, relationship development and a smoother transition into adulthood.
- Youth must have been in care for a minimum of 12 consecutive months.
- As a youth becomes eligible to utilize the fund, their worker is to inform them.
- The savings account is to be set up by the CAS on behalf of the eligible youth.
- The savings account is to be established as an eligible youth has their 15th birthday, or as soon as a youth who is 15 years of age, has been in care for a consecutive 12 months.
- The funds in the savings account may not be used by the agencies for any other purposes.
- The CAS is responsible to quarterly share with each youth enrolled in the savings program the balance of the account allotted to him/her.
- When paid out the funds can be paid direct the youth, to a third party on the youth's behalf, or a combination of these.
- The CAS shall help youth acquire financial skills relevant to independent living, establish a bank account for the youth, develop a plan with the youth, secure stable housing for the youth.
- The CAS is to develop programs to help youth acquire financial skills and demonstrate financial competency.
- The funds are to be paid out no later than 6 months of the youth leaving care. This may be extended at agencies discretion for a youth in custody.
- The funds shall be disbursed along with interest incurred.

- If a youth has not successfully met the savings plan requirements the agency shall develop a plan of disbursement of part or all of the savings to a third party on behalf of the youth.
- The discussion between the worker and the youth is to be recorded in the youth's file, including program requirements, method of disbursement, quarterly savings statements, youth's progress for meeting requirements.
- The CAS is to develop local policies to support the directive.
- If a youth cannot be found at the time the savings are to be disbursed, the agency can hold the funds for one year, if at the end of the year the youth cannot be found, the funds are to be rolled into the activities account.
- The OCBE funds are not to detrimentally impact on any funding within the agency any youth is already allotted, including the ECM.
- There are exceptions regarding youth who would have been eligible between July 1 2008 & Sep 30 2009, where youth would have qualified and is already on ECM. Refer to full ministry directive.

Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent (OCBE) Payment Levels

The maximum annual OCBE payments per child/youth from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011 have been revised from the payment levels indicated in the Policy Directive for the OCBE Pooled Fund to reflect the new rate increases with respect to the Ontario Child Benefit.

Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent per Child/Youth					
	July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009	July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010	July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013
Month	\$50	\$91.67	\$91.67	\$91.67	\$109.17
Year	\$600	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,310
Down-payment	\$250	-----	-----	-----	-----

The total monthly OCBE payment for a CAS is based on the number of children and youth for whom the CAS receives the Children's Special Allowance multiplied by the monthly OCBE payment for that month. All eligible children and youth have access to OCBE programs regardless of whether or not the CAS receives the Children's Special Allowance for that child or youth.