

## SKILLS LINK

The **SKILLS LINK** program provides funding for organizations to help youth facing barriers to employment develop the broad range of skills, knowledge, and work experience they need to participate and succeed in the job market. Skills Link was developed to assist youth in various circumstances, including those who are single parents, are of Aboriginal descent, have disabilities, are recent immigrants, live in rural and remote areas, or have not completed high school.

Through Skills Link, youth benefit from a client-centred approach and ongoing support, which helps them complete activities successfully and, ultimately, find and keep a job. In turn, employers may receive financial assistance to cover costs associated with providing employment services and individualized, integrated support to youth.

Skill Link provides the following type of **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**:

### GROUP-BASED EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- A pre-employment activity for young people who are not yet prepared to enter the world of work, or who need some additional development before advancing to gaining work experience.

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Designed for young people who face greater barriers to entering the labour market, and who are not yet ready for a work experience with an employer.
- The activities will provide participants with an opportunity to develop skills and apply them as a member of a team while providing service to others.

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS THROUGH WORK EXPERIENCE

- Will help young people gain employment experience while having workshops on life and employability skills; which are blended throughout the work experience to provide extra support for success.
- However, this activity focuses on their youth's exposure to work and the majority of the participants' time is, therefore, dedicated to work experience.

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- This activity will provide young people the opportunity to gain entrepreneurial experience and skills, through exposure to the world of self-employment.

- The activity focuses on entrepreneurship, in order for participants to develop skills that will equip them to establish their own business and help them make a successful transition into the labour market

#### WORK EXPERIENCE

- A work experience activity that will provide young people with opportunities to work with employers, in order to develop and enhance employability and occupational skills through practical on-the-job experience.

#### INDIVIDUAL SKILLS ENHANCEMENT

- This intervention enables youth to participate in short-term courses that fill specific, identified gaps in their education and skill development.
- Courses supported under Individual Skills Enhancement are pre-employment in nature or entry-level courses which are pre-requisites for longer-term programs of study.

To qualify for Skills Link, **PARTICIPANTS** must be:

- |  |                          |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| • Between 15 and 30 years of age (inclusive);  | <input type="checkbox"/> | • Out of school;   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • In need of assistance to overcome barriers <sup>1</sup> to employment;                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | • Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or people who have refugee status; | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Legally entitled to work according to the relevant provincial/territorial legislation and regulations; and | <input type="checkbox"/> | • Not in receipt of Employment Insurance benefits.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**CONTRIBUTION RECIPIENTS** can be businesses, organizations (such as not-for-profit, professional, or labour organizations, or employers), institutions (public health or educational), band/tribal councils, Aboriginal organizations, or municipal governments.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** and to apply, interested businesses and organizations should:

- CALL 1-866-945-7342 , TTY: 1-800-926-9105;
- CLICK on [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) (Youth and Students section);
- VISIT a Service Canada Centre.

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<sup>1</sup> Barriers: for examples of barriers please visit the following website:  
[http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/yi/forms/applicant\\_guide.pdf](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/yi/forms/applicant_guide.pdf)