



May 8, 2015

Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider:

I am writing to update you about the new Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG) Assessment Tool, which will help you prioritize applications and manage your COJG budget.

As I explained in my April 20 memo, increases in demand for the program have required us to develop an assessment tool to ensure we are using our funding to help those who will benefit the most from this sought after program.

The COJG Assessment Tool is based on the strategic priorities of the program. The ministry has consulted with a representative sample of COJG service providers on the tool and has incorporated their feedback. Information about the assessment process is now available on the ministry's COJG webpage to help manage employers' expectations and communicate the program's goals and priorities.

Please be advised that you can now commence the assessment of pending applications. Applications that were received on or prior to April 20, 2015, should be assessed using the criteria that was in place at the time. Applications received after April 20 should be assessed using the new assessment tool. The new COJG assessment tool can be accessed on the Employment Ontario Partnership Gateway (EOPG).

To support you with the implementation of this new process, the ministry has also developed a questions and answers document as well as an updated COJG Employer Training presentation deck. In addition, please find attached messaging for you to use in response to employer inquiries. I encourage you to carefully review these documents and use them to support your discussions with employers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your continued efforts to make this program a success. If you have any questions, please contact your local ministry office.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David Fulford
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division

Attachment

Attachment: Key Messages in Response to Employer Inquiries

1. Why were applications held on April 20th?

The Canada-Ontario Job Grant is a new program and is continuously being assessed to ensure its long-term success. The popularity of the program has led to a surge in employer demand. As a result, the ministry put a temporary hold on the processing of applications.

In response to this demand, the ministry developed an assessment tool to better prioritize and direct funding to help those who will benefit the most based on the strategic goals of the program.

All considerations for funding are based on current demand for funds and the number of applications in the community.

This change beginning April 20th is expected to enable the program to remain viable over the year.

Thank you for your patience during this period and we look forward to continuing our relationship with you.

2. How will applications submitted on or prior to April 20th be assessed?

We understand that many employers have worked on applications and submitted them prior to April 20. Please note employer applications received on and prior to April 20th will continue to be assessed using the original program eligibility requirements such as:

- A minimum employer contribution of 1/3 of eligible training costs in cash;
- Employing the individual selected for training for a job in Ontario; and
- Meeting all applicable federal and provincial human rights legislation, regulations, and any other relevant standards.

Only applications received after April 20th will be assessed against both the program eligibility criteria and the new COJG assessment tool criteria.

As part of the new tool criteria, the Ontario government is giving the highest priority to employer applications that allow trainees to take on a new or better job, and training that will allow trainees who have received a lay-off notice to retain their position. For all applications priority will be given to employers who have not received Canada-Ontario Job Grant funding in the past six months.

3. Can employers who have received COJG funding in the past re-apply?

Yes, all employers are welcome to apply for the COJG regardless of past funding. However, employers who have not received funding in the past six months will be given a higher priority.