

June 29, 2015

Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider,

As noted in [Budget 2015](#), the Ontario government reaffirmed its commitment to renew the Youth Jobs Strategy and support youth employment after the Youth Employment Fund ends by launching two new employment programs for young people: Youth Job Connection and Youth Job Link.

These new programs were designed and developed as part of Employment and Training Services Integration (ETSI), which is modernizing and transforming employment programs currently being delivered across government and integrating them into the Employment Ontario network.

The programs build on the best practices of the Youth Employment Fund, Ministry of Children and Youth Services' (MCYS) Jobs for Youth program, and other employment programs for young people, as well as feedback from the winter 2015 ETSI stakeholder consultations, of which youth employment programming was a key priority.

I'm pleased to provide you with more details about the launch of Youth Job Connection, which will meet the government's commitment to ensuring youth have access to a comprehensive suite of youth employment services so they can successfully transition to meaningful employment and succeed in the labour market.

Youth Job Connection will launch in fall 2015 and is designed to serve youth aged 15 to 29 who experience multiple and/or complex barriers to employment by providing more intensive supports beyond traditional job search and placement opportunities. These include:

- Paid pre-employment training to promote job-readiness;
- Job matching and paid job placements, with placement supports for participants and hiring incentives for employers;
- Mentorship services; and
- Education and work transitions supports.

Youth Job Connection will consist of two components:

- A year-round component, launching in fall 2015, which will provide intensive employment supports for youth aged 15 to 29 who are not in employment, education or training and who experience multiple barriers to employment.
- A summer component – Youth Job Connection: Summer – launching in spring 2016, which will provide summer job opportunities and part-time job placements during the school year to help multi-barriered high school students, aged 15 to 18, make positive educational and career choices. The focus will be on those facing challenging life circumstances and at risk of experiencing poor transitions between education and work.

Youth Job Connection will be delivered by a network of third-party service providers contracted through Employment Ontario.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has used a targeted approach to service provider selection. Service providers have been chosen from among organizations with existing contracts with the Ontario government to deliver employment services to youth, including organizations delivering the Youth Employment Fund and MCYS' Jobs for Youth program.

To determine the most effective service delivery network and ensure adequate service coverage across Ontario, the ministry conducted a comprehensive, evidence-based analysis of geography, labour market information, demographic characteristics and service provider capacity (including demonstrated ability to effectively manage program funds in compliance with their agreement(s)).

Service providers were also selected based on a proven track record of achieving positive outcomes for youth and a strong history of participation in outreach to key partners such as employers, schools and other community service providers.

Where need has been identified, the service delivery network will also include service providers with French language capacity and experience and expertise serving Aboriginal clients.

Next Steps

Service providers invited to deliver Youth Job Connection will be contacted directly, later today, with further information.

Once all selected service providers have been notified and have accepted the ministry's offer, a list of providers will be posted on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway.

Additional details on the implementation of this new program will be shared as soon as they become available. In the meantime, please view the [Qs and As](#) for more information.

The ministry is also preparing to implement Youth Job Link, which will be aimed at students and youth who do not face significant barriers to employment. Services will include access to job search resources and information to help them transition to the labour market, including summer employment. More information on the implementation of this program will be shared as it becomes available.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality service to Ontarians and ensuring they obtain the employment services and skills training they need to achieve their career goals.

Please do not hesitate to contact your local ministry office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David Fulford
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division