

Memorandum

To: Employment Ontario Network Service Providers

From: David Cronin, Director
Program Delivery Support Branch

Date: June 18, 2021

Subject: **Access to Employment Ontario Programs for Individuals with 900-Series Social Insurance Numbers**

Employment Ontario programs have a variety of eligibility and suitability requirements that determine an individual's ability to participate in a program. The ability to work in Canada legally is only one factor in determining an individual's ability to participate in Employment Ontario programs.

This memo provides policy clarification regarding access to Employment Ontario programming for 900-Series SIN holders. SINs that begin with a "9" are issued to individuals who require a SIN for employment purposes but are not Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents.

Individuals with a 900-series SIN and an open work permit who have received preliminary approval from the federal government and are waiting for their permanent residence status to be finalized are eligible to apply for the full range of Employment Ontario programs, depending on the program's eligibility and suitability requirements. These individuals include:

- Protected Persons, those determined by the Refugee Protection Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board to be either:
 - a. a Convention Refugee; or
 - b. a person in need of protection
- Those in Canada on a temporary work permit who have received a letter or document from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada confirming that they meet the eligibility requirements for permanent residence (i.e. approval in

principle).

Refugee claimants with a 900-series SIN and an open work permit are also eligible to apply for the full range of Employment Ontario programs, depending on the program's eligibility and suitability requirements.

International students and temporary foreign workers with a 900-series SIN may access self-directed components of Employment Service (i.e., Resource and Information) but may not access other assisted service components of the program.

Temporary foreign workers with a 900-series SIN may access the Literacy and Basic Skills program.

International students and temporary foreign workers with a 900-series SIN may not access other EO programs.

International students who require career and employment assistance should connect with the career services supports at their educational facility.

Service providers are encouraged to assist individuals with 900-series SIN in determining their eligibility for Employment Ontario programming based on the criteria above.

Alternatively, individuals with questions about eligibility for Employment Ontario programming may be directed to the Employment Ontario Contact Centre:

- Call toll- free: 1-800-387-5656
- TTY number: 1-866-533-6339
- Email: contactEO@ontario.ca

Thank you,

David Cronin
Director

cc: Heather Cross, Western Region – Regional Director
Andrew Irvine, Northern Region – Regional Director
Tariq Ismati, Eastern Region – Regional Director
Laura Loveridge, Central Region – Regional Director