

Memorandum

To: **Literacy and Basic Skills Support Organizations**

From: **Cordelia Abankwa**
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division
Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Date: **November 17, 2021**

Subject: **Literacy and Basic Skills - American Sign Language
Interpreter/Intervenor Fund**

Dear Employment Ontario delivery partners,

To ensure that all Literacy Basic Skills (LBS) staff and managers are able to participate in meetings and professional development events on a more equitable basis, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is expanding access to the existing (LBS) American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter/Intervenor Fund.

LBS regional and provincial support organizations will now be able to arrange and pay for interpreters, intervenors and note takers. This will ensure that professional development opportunities, service planning meetings, and other events are accessible to Deaf, hard of hearing or DeafBlind staff and managers, and will reduce administrative barriers for Deaf staff and managers in the LBS network.

The expanded access to ASL Interpreters/Intervenor Fund will be available through in-year funding for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Starting in 2022-23 funding will be incorporated into the annual business planning process.

Please contact your employment and training consultant (ETC) if you have additional questions or require clarification. Thank you for your ongoing work to support the employment and training needs of the people in your communities.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Cordelia Abankwa

Assistant Deputy Minister

Employment and Training Division

cc:

David Carter-Whitney

Assistant Deputy Minister

Workforce Policy and Innovation Division