

November 14, 2017

Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider:

I am writing to inform you of some exciting new changes coming to our Youth Job Connection (YJC) program. These improvements will give service providers that provide services to youth the support and flexibility they require to deliver the program in an even more effective way. The YJC program was designed to support youth facing multiple barriers to employment in obtaining employable skills that lead to meaningful work. Through the YJC program, the ministry ensures that youth get the services and supports they need to succeed in the labour market.

Over the last few months, the ministry consulted with key stakeholders, including service providers, through a number of focus groups, interviews, and meetings. In these engagement sessions, we obtained feedback on various aspects of the design and delivery of the YJC program. This input has informed these changes that the ministry is now implementing.

These improvements include:

1. rebalancing the funding ratios
2. redefining program completion in performance measures and shifting the weighting of related core measures
3. improving suitability indicators (SI) for program performance measurement and shifting the weighting of related core measures
4. simplifying administrative requirements for service providers
5. building a community of practice

Working collaboratively with our delivery partners is integral to our goal of continuously improving our employment and training programs. As such, we will continue to seek opportunities to work with the Employment Ontario network to the enhance design and delivery of our programs. By doing this, we are able to better help our clients, including young people across the province, find the supports that they need.

The ministry will be working over the coming months to implement the YJC program improvements, updating resources, and developing training for ministry staff and service providers. The first change service providers will see will be in YJC business plans, specifically in the weighting of core measures within the Service Quality Standard. More information, including updated program guidelines and a detailed a set of questions and answers regarding these improvements are forthcoming and will be provided on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway. The ministry is also planning an information session for service providers early next year.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to modernize our programs.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David Carter–Whitney  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development