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MEMORANDUM TO: Youth Job Connection (YJC) and Youth Job Connection: Summer (YJCS) Service Providers

FROM: Jacqueline Cureton
Director, Program Delivery Support Branch

DATE: April 2017

RE: Pre-Employment Service Stipend and Job Placement Support flexibility

Objective:

As a result of feedback from stakeholders, the ministry is implementing improvements to, and clarifications about the Pre-Employment Stipend (PES) and Job Placement Supports in the Youth Job Connection (YJC) and Youth Job Connection: Summer (YJCS) program. These changes are part of our continuous improvement efforts, and will offer more flexibility for service providers in the provision of financial supports and incentives, and help participants achieve greater success in the program.

Pre-Employment Stipend (PES): Guideline Clarification

Service providers may not be aware that the program guidelines support flexible payments to clients in the Pre-Employment Services component of the program. The program guidelines state in section 3.2.2. Financial Supports and Incentives: "The service provider will determine exactly when the stipend is given to the participant." As a result, young people can be paid as frequently as on a daily basis to support their successful completion of the pre-employment service component.

It has been brought to the ministry's attention that some young people are facing financial challenges accessing and remaining in the Pre-Employment Services component of YJC and YJCS. Program participants may struggle to budget larger payments of the stipend and could benefit from smaller, daily payments.

For example, a young person without funds requires daily financial assistance for transportation to attend a Pre-Employment workshop. As part of the participant's service plan, they receive the PES on a bi-weekly basis. Due to their barriers, the participant does not budget appropriately to meet their daily needs and stops attending the program. The service

provider has the flexibility to change the PES payment frequency to daily to help the participant receive funds earlier, budget appropriately and remain in the program.

Job Placement Supports: Guideline Change

Effective April 1, 2017, the ministry is expanding the use of YJC and YJCS Job Placement Supports. Previously, Job Placement Supports were only available to YJC and YJCS participants accessing the Job Matching, Placement and Incentives component of the program.

Job Placement Supports will now be available to all YJC and YJC-S participants from the point of registration into the program and can be used to address financial barriers to participating in the following program components:

- Client service planning and coordination (post-registration);
- Pre-employment services; and,
- Job matching, placement and incentives.

All other aspects of Job Placement Supports remain the same, and this change does not impact participant access to the pre-employment stipend.

This improvement will provide service providers with added flexibility to address financial barriers experienced by young people when participating in different aspects of the YJC and YJCS programs.

Program guidelines will be updated later in 2017.

Please see the latest technical Questions and Answers for further information on how to record this change in the use of the Job Placement Supports in the Employment Ontario Information Systems- Case Management System.

If your organization has any questions, please contact your Employment and Training Consultant.

Jacqueline Cureton
Director

Cc: Mary Joe Freire, Western Region Director
Andrew Irvine, Northern Region Director
Patricia Quattrociocchi, Central Region Director
Jennifer Barton, Eastern Region Director