

Youth Job Link – Discontinuation

Technical Qs and As for Ministry Staff and Service Providers

April 1, 2019

1. What has changed with Youth Job Link?

The Youth Job Link program is being discontinued as of March 31, 2019 as part of the government's commitment to streamline services and focus on outcomes. Youth remain a priority and Service providers can still continue to serve them through the relevant components of Employment Service.

2. How will this affect the delivery of Employment Service?

Clients that would have otherwise been eligible for Youth Job Link will still continue to have access to Resource and Information services and opportunities through Employment Service year round. All other aspects of the Employment Service program will be offered without interruption.

3. How will service providers address the needs of students?

Service providers can provide students access to a number of programs that can help them find employment, including:

- **Youth Job Connection:** serves 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.
- **Youth Job Connection Summer:** provides summer, part-time and after-school job opportunities to high school students, aged 15 to 18 who are facing

challenging life circumstances and may need support transitioning between school and work.

- **Employment Service:** provides employment services and supports to a wide range of individuals, including youth who may be facing some barriers to employment and may benefit from assisted supports. Students can benefit from the Resource and Information component that has no eligibility or access criteria.

4. Are service providers obligated to serve clients that would have otherwise accessed Youth Job Link through Employment Service?

Employment Service providers should use their judgement when determining suitability for all potential clients. Resource and Information processes can be used to assess all potential Employment Service clients to determine what level of service is appropriate.

5. Will there be any changes to the guidelines? How will they be communicated to service providers?

Specific guideline changes regarding Youth Job Link were introduced as an addendum to the Employment Service guidelines. All references to Youth Job Link will be removed from the Employment Service guidelines and the addendum will be removed from the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway.

6. How should client intake be managed?

Service providers should continue to engage in Youth Job Link program activity until March 31, 2019. After this date, service providers should no longer offer the Youth Job Link component of Employment Service.

7. What other options are available for eligible Youth Job Link employers?

Employers are eligible for various incentives and supports under the Employment Ontario umbrella, including:

- **The Canada-Ontario Job Grant:** provides an opportunity for employers to invest in their workforce, with help from the government. Direct financial support is available to individual employers who wish to purchase training for their employees.
- **Employment Service:** Assistance is available to employers who operate a business in Ontario to attract and recruit the employees with the skills they need. The program also offers a financial incentive of up to \$6,000 per participant for employers to provide on-the-job training for participants in job placements, including youth.
- **Apprenticeship Employer Signing Bonus (Placement Incentive under Employment Service):** A \$2,000 Apprenticeship Employer Signing Bonus (AESB) is available to employers who hire, register, and train an apprentice.
- **Youth Job Connection:** Up to \$7,500 is available per participant. This maximum amount can be used for a combination of incentives for the employer, and employment and training supports for the participant.
- **Youth Job Connection Summer:** Up to \$2,500 is available per participant. This maximum amount can be used for a combination of incentives for the employer, and employment and training supports for the participant.

8. What if a service provider enters a client into the Employment Ontario Information System (EOIS) Case Management System (CaMS) after the March 31, 2019 end date because they were unaware of the cancellation of the program? Will the employer still receive funding?

Employers will not be eligible to receive funding for Youth Job Link clients entered into the system for Youth Job Link after March 31, 2019. However, employers have the option to access other incentives and supports offered through other Employment Ontario programs and services.

9. Will the ministry provide additional funding for wind-down activities?

The Ministry cannot make any commitments; however, service providers can discuss concerns with their respective Employment and Training Consultants.

10. What system changes will be implemented to account for this change?

As of April 1, 2019, service providers are not to create new Youth Job Link service plans in the Employment Ontario Information System - Case Management System (EOIS-CaMS). The ministry is working towards making the necessary system changes to remove Youth Job Link from the list of available service plan templates on the service plan creation page.