

## **Ontario Employment Assistance Program – Additional Flow-Through Funding**

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **1. Why is the ministry providing additional flow-through funding to OEAS providers?**

Up until now, some OEAS Providers have received funding to provide supports to clients, however they have not been funded to provide job matching and placement incentives.

For this reason, service providers (SPs) have been referring their clients to Employment Service (ES) providers to access these supports over the years.

In order to provide a broader range of employment and training services to OEAS clients, the ministry is providing this additional flow-through funding in order for clients to access the full range of employment services with one provider, eliminating the need to receive services from another Employment Ontario (EO) program.

#### **2. Are all OEAS SPs receiving this additional flow-through funding?**

The ministry canvassed OEAS SPs in summer of 2021 to gauge their interest and level of need for this additional flow-through funding.

Those SPs that identified a need for this additional funding were included in this allocation increase.

Not all OEAS providers deliver job matching and placement support, and thus are not receiving the additional funding.

Currently, 33 service delivery sites have been approved to receive this additional flow-through funding to support service activity for the remainder of the fiscal year, until March 31, 2022.

#### **3. Is there a limit on how much each OEAS client can receive in funding supports?**

Each client can access up to \$3,000 max in supports per service plan. They can be a combination of supports received through the “Supports for Individuals” or “Employment and Training Incentives for Employers” budget lines.

**4. Can the new budget line be used for placement supports?**

Yes, the new budget line, “Employment and Training Incentives for Employers”, is intended for financial placement supports to cover employer costs associated with training activity during a job placement.

**5. The amended agreement template indicates that OEAS SPs are required to use the Ontario Employment Assistance Services “Training Incentive Placement Agreement” form. When will this form be available?**

The OEAS “Training Incentive Placement Agreement” form has been developed and will be posted on the Employment Ontario Partners’ Gateway (EOPG) for service provider use.. SPs are expected to use this form to capture the details of every job matching and placement activity.

The Employment Ontario Information System – Case Management System (EOIS-CaMS) also has a service plan item to capture placement activities in the system.

**6. Can the SP use the additional flow-through funds for work experience/job shadowing?**

The funding in the “Employment and Training Incentives for Employers” budget line can only be used to support participant training in paid job placements.

**7. What are considered eligible expenses under “Supports for Individuals”?**

“Supports for Individuals” are costs for clients to support their participation in the project. Examples include dependent care, transportation, and disability related costs (e.g. attendant care, sign language interpretation, and adaptive technology set-up).

The additional flow-through funding approved by the ministry is intended to remove service gaps that OEAS providers were previously experiencing for which they were referring OEAS clients to ES. Even though SPs have been given the discretion to allocate the additional flow-through funding between two different budget lines, “Supports for Individuals” and “Employment and Training Incentives for Employers”, this needs to take into consideration that no service gaps are created in areas this funding is supposed to support.

EO programs should be the last source of funding for individual costs such as assistive devices and adaptive technology. Financial supports through providers

such as Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) should be exhausted before OEAS is considered as an option.

All financial supports that are provided under OEAS must have a strict connection to employment and training. Funding cannot be provided toward assistive devices and supplies required solely for activities of daily living or health maintenance.