

Memorandum

To: Employment Service Providers

From: David Cronin, A/Director, Program Delivery Support Branch,
Employment and Training Division

Date: September 29, 2019

Subject: Ontario Job Creation Partnerships Program Update

Objective

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise Employment Service Providers of the Ontario Job Creation Partnerships policy and program changes including updates documents, tools and forms, as listed below.

What Is Happening?

The updated documents, tools and forms for the Ontario Job Creation Partnerships program are now available on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway, including the following:

- OJCP Sponsorship Applicant Guide
- OJCP Participant Qs and As
- Client Application Form – 89-1839 (available on the [Central Forms Repository](#))
- OJCP Concept Paper Template

Please review and familiarize yourself with the refreshed documents above.

There have also been changes to eligibility requirements and financial support amounts that Employment Service providers should be aware of when assessing the suitability of potential Ontario Job Creation Partnerships clients:

Premiums Paid Eligibility

Under new Premiums Paid Eligibility rules, individuals who have contributed Employment Insurance premiums in at least 5 of the last 10 calendar years (where earnings have been at least \$2000 in each of those years) will be eligible to participate

in Ontario Job Creation Partnerships projects and receive Employment Insurance Part II Employment Benefits.

Participant Financial Support

To keep pace with increasing living costs, Ontario Job Creation Partnerships financial support will now be tied to the Ontario minimum wage:

Financial Support (weekly) = 40 x the current Ontario minimum wage

Workplace Safety Insurance Board

Workplace Safety Insurance Board processes changed to reflect the addition of Ontario Job Creation Partnerships program to the Ministry's Workplace Safety Insurance Board policy.

The Ontario Job Creation Partnerships guidelines and all applicable documents and forms have been updated to reflect these changes, which includes a requirement for Ontario Job Creation Partnerships sponsors to have workplace safety insurance board coverage or alternate workplace safety insurance coverage through a private insurance carrier. The sponsor may elect to file claims under their own Workplace Safety Insurance Board coverage or under the Ministry's Workplace Safety Insurance Board coverage. If the sponsor has alternate workplace safety insurance coverage they must file claims under their private insurance coverage.

Who Is Affected?

All Employment Service provider's staff who create Ontario Job Creation Partnerships service plans for clients.

What Should Be Done Now?

Employment Service providers should familiarize themselves with the new documents and processes.

What Will Be Done Later?

Updates to other Ontario Job Creation Partnerships documents and forms are currently ongoing and will be posted when finalized.

Background

Ontario Job Creation Partnerships is an Employment Ontario program designed to support partnership projects that provide insured participants with opportunities to gain meaningful work experience to improve their long-term employment prospects. Project activities should benefit both the participant and the community with the primary focus being on the participant.

To be eligible, participants must be unemployed and:

- have an active Employment Insurance claim; or
- have had an Employment Insurance benefit period that ended within the previous 60 months; or
- have paid employee premiums in at least 5 of the previous 10 years (where earnings have been at least \$2000 in each of those years).

As a result of their involvement on an Ontario Job Creation Partnerships project, participants will have recent work experience to add to their resumes. Ontario Job Creation Partnerships participants will develop and/or enhance their employability skills through this work experience opportunity. This experience, together with the networking which participants do while on a project, may increase their chances of successfully finding ongoing employment.

Contact Information

Any questions or clarifications can be directed through the regional support model.

C: Tariq Ismati, Central Region Director
Jennifer Barton, Eastern Region Director
Andrew Irvine, Northern Region Director
Daniel Kay, Western Region Director