

## **Memorandum**

**To:** Employment Ontario Delivery Partners

**From:** Cordelia Abankwa, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division  
Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

**Date:** November 22, 2021

**Subject:** **Second Career Funding and Update on Phase 3 Redesign**

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Dear Employment Ontario delivery partners,

I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy this fall, and benefitting from the gradual return of many of the activities and services we all have missed.

### **Second Career Funding Announcement**

As the COVID-19 pandemic has left many people without a job or limited opportunities to find work, it remains the Ontario Government's priority to support laid-off workers to retrain for a new career. The Second Career program continues to help laid-off workers pay for tuition and living expenses for those who want to participate in training for in-demand occupations. Earlier today, the government [announced](#) a further \$5 million in funding for Second Career this fiscal year to help more people pursue the training they need to start new and better careers.

### **Ongoing Program Enhancements**

Since the implementation of the Second Career Redesign (Phase 1) in December 2020, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has continued its efforts to improve the

Second Career program. Today, I'm pleased to provide an update about further program improvements, as part of Phase 3 of the Redesign.

Next Spring, the government will be expanding the Second Career program to people who have little or no work experience, those who are self-employed or those in the gig economy. The program will offer improved access for those whose employment barriers may have been made worse by the pandemic.

Client groups that will have improved access to the program include:

- Social assistance clients (including measures to reduce barriers and improve information and referral supports);
- Groups with known barriers to employment such as youth, recent newcomers and persons with disabilities; and
- Suitable individuals who have lost non-traditional types of work (e.g. gig workers, those who are self-employed).

I want to emphasize that these changes are not taking effect until next Spring, however, today's announcement is part of our commitment to provide regular updates to our service delivery partners. As we continue to move through this process, I will provide regular updates about implementation planning. As well, we will roll out training for service providers in advance to ensure that the service delivery network is informed and ready for implementation. And as we expand this program, we will of course continue to support the laid-off and unemployed workers the program has always served.

To learn more about the changes anticipated as part of the Phase 3 Redesign, additional details can be found in Qs and As posted on the [Employment Ontario Partners Gateway](#).

Thank you for your partnership and flexibility as we continue to make improvements to the Second Career program.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

Cordelia Abankwa  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division

**Cc:**

David Carter-Whitney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Workforce Policy and Innovation  
Division, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Aki Tefera, Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Assistance Programs Division, Ministry of  
Children, Community and Social Services