

Memorandum

To: Employment Ontario Service Providers

From: Jacqueline Cureton, Director, Program Delivery Support Branch

Date: March 29, 2018

Subject: Launch of Supported Employment – Phase One

Following the release of the [Access Talent Strategy](#), I am pleased to announce that Employment Ontario's (EO) new Supported Employment (SE) program will launch its first phase on April 1, 2018 in three communities with select service providers.

The SE is designed for individuals who face complex barriers to employment as a result of a disability. These barriers may include some combination of limited or interrupted labour market experience, low levels of education or literacy and challenging life circumstances (e.g., poverty or lack of family/parental support). The SE program offers a range of services and opportunities for people with disabilities to prepare for and secure competitive and long-term employment.

The ministry is taking a measured and gradual phased approach to implementing SE and will integrate and replace the following programs for people with disabilities: Ontario Employment Assistance Services, Ontario Disability Support Program – Employment Supports, and Mental Health Vocational Employment Supports.

The first phase of SE will be offered in three select communities across the province: Belleville, Cornwall, and Timmins. These communities and service providers were selected on a number of factors to ensure that there was minimal disruption and that the selected service providers have the capacity and capability to meet the SE program's implementation timelines. There will be no service impact to any EO service providers outside of the phase 1 communities.

Although SE will be delivered through a targeted group of service providers, all EO service providers in the phase 1 communities must be prepared to identify potential SE participants, provide accurate and current information to clients, and make referrals to service providers that will best meet clients' needs. A list of SE service providers is available at findhelp.ca.

The government is committed to ongoing consultations with key stakeholders throughout the phased implementation of the Supported Employment program. We will use feedback from service providers, the broader community, external stakeholder working groups, and individuals accessing the program to make improvements and/or adjustments, if needed, before future phases are rolled out.

Program Guidelines and Technical Questions and Answers are now available on the [Supported Employment page](#) on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway. Additional resources, including a SE Overview presentation and EO Program Comparison Chart for People with Disabilities are also available to help service providers become familiar with the program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment and I look forward to working with you to ensure that people with disabilities in Ontario have equal access to streamlined, high quality employment services and skills training that they need in order to be competitive and successful in the labour market.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Employment and Training Consultant for further information.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Cureton

Director, Program Delivery Support Branch
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development

Cc: Daniel Kay, Western Region Director
Andrew Irvine, Northern Region Director
Oxana Golovkina, Central Region Director
Jennifer Barton, Eastern Region Director