



---

## **FAQ: COVID-19 EMPLOYMENT GRANT – HELPING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GET BACK TO WORK**

---

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) provide answers to common questions asked about the employment grant money service providers can apply for to help people who lost their jobs during COVID-19 to get back to work.

### **Q. What is the COVID-19 employment grant?**

Getting people back to work is part of the Province's COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

The Province has approved \$9.7 million of COVID-19 emergency funding to be used over two years to support Community Living BC (CLBC)-funded employment service providers to make sure they have staff resources available to support people with developmental disabilities who lost their jobs during COVID-19 to get back to work.

Inclusion BC will be administering this grant program to all CLBC-funded employment service providers. Starting in January 2021, grants will be available for CLBC employment service providers to apply for over a two-year period to aid in COVID-19 recovery.

### **Q: Who will benefit from this funding?**

The funding will be focused on supporting employment service providers to help people with developmental disabilities who are enrolled in CLBC-funded employment services and who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19. The grant funding will enable employment service providers to ensure they have the required staffing to support people to reconnect to their previous employment or to find a new job.

CLBC and Inclusion BC will assess the needs of service providers at the end of the first year to determine on-going needs for both staffing and individual support.

### **Q: Why is government putting money into COVID-19 relief for employment services?**

CLBC recently conducted a survey that over half of CLBC's 100 employment service providers completed. Results of the survey indicated that 47% of the people these agencies are serving who were employed prior to the pandemic have lost their jobs. This grant funding will assist people to reconnect to their previous jobs or find new employment.

### **Q. How will this funding help people get back to work?**

Eligible employment service providers will apply for the grant to make sure they have the staffing resources available to support people enrolled in CLBC employment services who have lost work during the pandemic to get back to work. The type of support that will be provided will be based on the individual's needs.

**Q: If I am already enrolled in CLBC employment services, do I need to do anything?**

No, you do not need to do anything. Your CLBC employment service provider is responsible for completing and submitting the application for grant funding if they meet the eligibility requirements.

**Q: What makes a service provider eligible to apply for this funding?**

CLBC employment service providers must be up to date with reporting they must do four times a year to tell government how funding for employment services is benefitting individuals. This reporting helps governments understand how these services are working and where they may need to be strengthened.

**Q: When will the funding be available for service providers to apply?**

Inclusion BC is administering this grant program. The online application will go live on January 25, 2021 and will be open until February 15, 2021.

**Q. What supports are available to help individuals who do not receive employment services during COVID-19?**

Government has implemented financial, mental health and residential supports to assist people with disabilities during COVID-19. You can find more information [here on the Province's website](#).

CLBC has developed a [newsletter](#) for individuals and families that lists lots of connection opportunities and free resources for COVID-19. This newsletter is developed in collaboration with partners and self-advocates. If you are interested in receiving a regularly updated list of community resources for COVID-19, you can sign up to receive this newsletter [here](#).