

Youth Development Initiative

Youth Work Experience Wage Subsidy for Business Owners Looking to Hire More Staff

Funding Guidelines Overview

The Youth Development Initiative (YDI) is a program, funded by the Department of Community Services, that provides work experience to youth ages 15 to 20 through wage subsidies paid to employers. The program provides dependents of clients receiving employment supports and income assistance, and youth in the care of the Minister, with the opportunity to gain work experience, enhance employability skills, develop career goals, and engage within their communities.

The program pays up to 100% of minimum wage for a youth to gain work experience with eligible employers.

The intent of this document is to provide employers with program eligibility information. To learn more about setting up a paid work experience for a youth in your community, please contact 1-877-424-1177 and ask for your local Employment Support and Income Assistance office.

Eligible Employers

Employers who demonstrate the ability to provide quality work experience to youth and are:

- A private sector or not-for-profit organization.
- Registered with the Registry of Joint Stocks.
- If unionized, you provide a letter from the union stating the placement will not displace a union member.

Wage subsidy placements will not be considered where the participant is an immediate family member of the employer.

Employers are expected to provide:

- Adequate supervision;
- Required training;
- Complete an Employer Evaluation Form.

Employers are also encouraged to provide the youth with a written reference letter at the end of the placement.

Eligible Participants

Eligible youth participants must be between the age of 15–20 inclusive, and are:

- Nova Scotia residents; or
- Legally entitled to work in Nova Scotia; and
- Not already employed in a full-time job

And are one or more of the following:

- An ESIA client, or a dependent of an ESIA client; or
- A student family member; or
- Attached to the Child, Youth and Family Supports Program; or
- Attending Halifax Youth Attendance Centre.

Eligible youth must be currently enrolled in an approved educational program or registered to attend an approved educational program following their participation in a work placement.

Youth Wage Subsidy (Full or Part Time)

- A wage subsidy is up to 100% of minimum wage, and shall not exceed \$4,500 per placement
- Participant's rate of pay is based on industry standards, and employers are encouraged to make a financial contribution if a position's rate of pay exceeds minimum wage
- The employer is responsible for all mandatory employment related costs

For more information on hiring a youth, please contact 1-877-424-1177 and ask for your local Employment Support and Income Assistance office.