



Newsletter

Pandemic Response: Workforce Shortages Stream Accepting Applications - BC Gov't

Below is an important message from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training – Pandemic Response – Workforce Shortages Stream accepting applications.

Best regards,

Elaine Allan, BA, MBA
Executive Director

To Prospective Applicants,

The Community Workforce Response Grant program has expanded the Workforce Shortages Stream to support sectors and industries in addressing the skills training needs of workers impacted by pandemic.

The Pandemic Response: Workforce Shortages Stream is now open for applications. It provides funding for training, employment services and financial supports for unemployed, *and employed*, participants who require upskilling or training to prepare for changing job requirements related to the pandemic or economic recovery opportunities.

A summary of the expanded stream is provided below.

Additional information about the **Pandemic Response: Workforce Shortages Stream** is available on WorkBC.ca at [Community Workforce Response Grant](#).

Who can apply for the grant?

Eligible applicants include:

- Industry, sector and employer associations



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- Union halls and training boards.

What type of training projects will the stream support?

- Projects that address the skills training needs of employed or unemployed people impacted by pandemic.
- Cohort-based training that is aligned with local labour market needs and demonstrates a clear link between training and employment.
- Priority will be given to applications where participants were, or are, working in sectors or industries that have been hardest hit by the pandemic
- Training must begin before March 1st, 2021 and be delivered within 52 weeks
- Priority will be given to projects that start immediately

What funding is available?

- Employment Assistance Services and Participant Financial Supports.
- Applicants are eligible to submit more than one application.

Eligible costs include:

- Skills training including short-duration training, occupational skills training, essential skills training, and apprenticeship training.
- Employment assistance services such as resume preparation, job development, pre-employment counselling and/or coaching, and Indigenous cultural components.
- Participant financial supports such as childcare, transportation, disability supports, personal protective equipment (such as masks, work boots or gloves), etc.
- Up to 10% of the total costs of project delivery to support project administration.

Who is eligible to take the training?

- Participants may be unemployed, precariously employed (part time, seasonal and/or casual), or employed but require upskilling or training to prepare for changing job requirements or new opportunities.
- Priority will be given to projects that support participants most impacted by the pandemic. This includes workers whose jobs have been impacted by the



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pandemic as well as unemployed people; particularly those who face more barriers and are more vulnerable to being left behind during economic recovery including youth (15-29), older workers 55+, Indigenous people, people of colour, or immigrants (including refugees).

How do I apply?

- Applicants must have a Business BCeID Account to apply. Review the [Business BCeID Questions and Answers](#) document for more information.
- Submit an application online through the Skills Training Grants system.

If you have any questions about the stream or application submission, please contact our team at CWRG@gov.bc.ca.

Please share this information widely throughout your networks as the Pandemic Response: Workforce Shortages stream is now open!

The CWRG Team

Program Design and Delivery | [Community Work Response Grant](#)
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training | Province of British Columbia



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