



Report To:	Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Board
From:	Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services
Date:	July 17, 2009
Re:	Enhanced Employment Services for Vulnerable Persons (EES)

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB accepts the 100% Provincial Funding provided by the Ministry of Community & Social Services in the amount of **\$46,000 per year** for the MCSS fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.
2. That staff prepare a report for the Board outlining how these funds will be best utilized in order to assist the Vulnerable Persons in receipt of Ontario Works.

REPORT

Purpose

CMSM's/DSSAB's (CMSM) across Ontario are struggling with impacts of the economic downturn with relation to their Ontario Works caseloads. For the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB the Ontario Works caseload has not seen a significant increase since October 2008. The increases appears to be more seasonal however if these the additional cases taken on between October 2008 and June 2009 do not decline during the summer months, as they normally do, we may have an increase in caseload that is more long term or permanent.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise the Board how these new 100% provincial dollars will be used to assist the vulnerable persons on Ontario Works
- Target these funds at a specific target group that is not a duplication of any past efforts
- Assist individuals with long term attachment to Social Assistance in making a clean break form dependence on Ontario Works to becoming financially independent

Back Ground

The 2009 Ontario Budget included a \$700M investment over two years in transitional employment and training assistance, which is supported by enhancements to the Ontario Labour Market Agreement with the federal government.

The purpose of the funding is to re-connect, support and prepare vulnerable populations for participating in appropriate education, training services and employment. To achieve labour market success, some individuals may require upfront intensive supports that will prepare them to participate in pre-employment activities. This will assist people with no or minimal attachment to the labour force who are most at risk during an economic downturn.

Funding has been allocated to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to provide services for persons on social assistance with no or marginal attachment to the labour market who are also experiencing multiple barriers to employment.

Objectives

100% provincial funding is being allocated to Ontario Works delivery agents to provide enhanced services that prepare and support vulnerable groups on social assistance for labour market success.

Enhanced Employment Services for Vulnerable Persons (EES) funding will be used to provide enhanced services for social assistance clients who are vulnerable, specifically:

- persons with disabilities
- mental health and/or substance abuse issues,
- at-risk youth (i.e., 16-30 years of age),
- older workers,
- Aboriginal persons,
- Newcomers to Canada,
- persons fleeing domestic violence and
- homeless persons.

Ontario Works Delivery agents may plan services targeting the training and employment needs of a particular group, and are expected to target and/or tailor a portion of their enhanced employment services to persons with disabilities, including ODSP recipients.

Enhanced services will be incremental to the range of services provided under Ontario Works Employment Assistance outcome funding to address barriers that vulnerable groups face when attempting to access the labour market.

Funding Parameters

- Support vulnerable participants in increasing their readiness through pre-employment activities to obtain and maintain appropriate training via Employment Ontario (EO) mainstream services, access post-secondary opportunities, and/or find and maintain employment;
- Leverage integration and alignment opportunities of employment services and supports across a continuum of services through Ontario Works, EO and the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration;
- Meet a test of incrementality that demonstrates how the funding is providing enhanced services to vulnerable groups;
- Recognize that specialized services are to be client focused and can be tailored to group needs; and
- Be linked to key outcomes including:
 - enhancing service capacity to support enrolment in employment services to maintain employment outcomes, particularly for persons with disabilities;
 - increasing retention in pre-employment and training programs; and
 - increasing training participation and completion.

The EES plan must demonstrate and quantify which enhanced services are being provided to enhance service capacity to increase training and/or employment readiness amongst the locally identified vulnerable populations.

Conclusion

The Manitoulin-Sudbury Ontario Works staff will meet over the summer months to develop a detailed plan for the implementation of the new enhanced employment funding for vulnerable people. An update to this report will be provided at the September 2009 Board meeting.