



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**TO:** Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

**FROM:** Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

**MEETING DATE:** October 8, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Report CSSSJSSC09-018  
Enhanced Employment Services for Vulnerable Persons

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to inform the Joint Services Steering Committee of recently announced provincial funding to increase employment supports for social assistance recipients.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendation outlined in Report CSSSJSSC09-018 dated October 8, 2009, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the Enhanced Employment Services for Vulnerable Persons (EES) report be received for information.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications to the City or County of Peterborough as the EES program is funded through a 100% provincial subsidy from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS). Time-limited funding in the amount of \$329,394 per year has been allotted to the Ontario Works Employment Services program in both the 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years.

## BACKGROUND

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

On July 3, 2009, the Social Assistance Division received notice from MCSS that, as part of the 2009 Ontario Budget, it was allocating funding to municipalities to provide employment services to social assistance recipients who have limited attachment to the labour market. The additional funding is intended to assist Ontario Works (OW) delivery agents to expand services that re-connect, support and prepare vulnerable populations for labour market success. The EES funding will be used to provide enhanced services for social assistance clients that may include persons with disabilities, mental health and/or substance abuse issues, at-risk youth, older workers, Aboriginal persons, newcomers to Canada, persons fleeing domestic violence and homeless persons. These groups of individuals are increasingly vulnerable and at risk in an economic downturn.

EES funding is a 100% provincial subsidy allocated on a fiscal basis based on each delivery agent's percentage share of the OW monthly average caseload in 2008. The intent of this funding is not to duplicate existing employment supports but to expand upon the current range of local Employment Services programs, and build on existing funding sources and support integrated services to meet the needs of individuals. In order to access EES funding, MCSS requires that an amendment to the OW Service Plan be submitted, which will be subject to approval.

Eligible services and supports may include intensive case management, employment assessments and training. Activities are expected to: enhance service capacity to support enrolment in employment services; increase retention in pre-employment and training programs; and increase training participation and completion. The Social Services Division is currently investigating opportunities to support OW and ODSP recipients through expanded services, including:

- Life skills training;
- Job coaching;
- Peer support/mentoring;
- Literacy/learning disabilities employment preparedness;
- Vocational assessments;
- Social enterprise workplace training and job trials.

OW Service Plan amendments are due to the Ministry by mid-October 2009. The expectation is that some additional programs will commence before 2010. EES funding is expenditure-based and will result in additional services beyond the approved OW Employment Service performance-based funding envelope.

Additional details are still expected regarding the Ministry approval process, service plan amendment requirements and budget schedules. A follow-up report to Councils will be provided once the financial details have been finalized and the OW Service Plan amendment is approved by MCSS.

Submitted by,

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