
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Social Development

Service providers identified for new employment centres

VICTORIA – The Province has identified 72 successful proponents to deliver services through the new WorkBC Employment Services Centres, scheduled to open April 2012.

The Request for Proposals phase of the new Employment Program of BC closed May 26. Successful proponents from this comprehensive process will now begin the process of reviewing and signing contracts with the ministry to deliver the program through WorkBC Employment Services Centres across B.C. The ministry expects all contracts to be signed by the end of November 2011.

The new employment program was developed after considerable consultation over an eighteen-month period with stakeholders. The revised program reflects feedback about the need for better access to services for those trying to find a job.

The new WorkBC Employment Services Centres will integrate all services currently offered through a single door and make it easier to help people find work and provide stability for their families. No unemployed British Columbian will be left behind because the new service providers must ensure that everyone has access to the same services, regardless of where they live in the province.

All service providers will determine the best way to ensure effective service delivery to specialized populations and smaller communities. As a result, specialized populations – including immigrants, youth, Aboriginal people, Francophones, persons with disabilities, survivors of violence, persons with multiple barriers and people living in rural and remote areas – will receive the full suite of quality services through the new integrated centres regardless of where they live.

Each employment centre will be able to make use of various service channels to better serve their clients. There will be 85 storefront locations and another 114 satellite offices. Many locations will also use mobile services and outreach for specialized populations or those living in remote areas. The ministry will set up an expert advisory panel to monitor how the new model works for British Columbians, and a panel of specialized experts to examine how the model is working for clients with specialized needs, such as those with disabilities or clients with multiple barriers to employment.

The Province will invest \$341.2 million in employment services for 2011-12. The new employment centres support the government's Families First commitment and BC Jobs Plan, which will strengthen the economy, creating and protecting jobs for British Columbians.

For information about the new service providers for the WorkBC Employment Services Centres visit www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/community_organizations/btp/successful_proponents.html and for more information on ministry services for unemployed British Columbians visit <http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/>

More information on WorkBC is available at www.WorkBC.ca

BC Jobs Plan information can be found at www.bcjobsplan.ca/

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