

Work Experience Opportunities Grant (WEOG) 2026-2027 Open Grant Call (Province-Wide)

Background

The Work Experience Opportunities Grant (WEOG) is part of ***StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan***, designed to support both individuals and communities to enhance employability and work readiness skills. Funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, and delivered by United Way BC (UWBC), the WEOG initiative provides funding to non-profits and charitable partners to create short-term, paid work experiences for up to 10 individuals who are receiving BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) who may face significant barriers to employment.

Grant Objectives

This initiative is an opportunity for non-profits to enhance their programs and services offering while creating a more inclusive work environment for British Columbians in need. It provides eligible funded partners with grants to deliver time-limited work experience opportunities for residents receiving or eligible to receive BC Employment and Disability Assistance (BCEA) (please see page 5 for eligibility information).

The community objectives of the BC Work Experience Opportunities Grant (WEOG) are:

Support Economic Recovery: Provide paid work experience opportunities to help individuals receiving or eligible to receive income assistance including those impacted by the tariffs to move towards economic recovery.

Enhance Skill Development: Equip participants with essential skills and work experience to improve their employability and prepare them for in-demand jobs.

Address Employment Barriers: Assist individuals facing significant barriers to employment, including those receiving income or disability assistance and Indigenous people receiving equivalent federal assistance.

Promote Inclusive Employment: Broaden eligibility criteria to include more participants and funded partners, fostering inclusive employment practices. Provide opportunities across the province of B.C. supporting an equitable regional distribution of placements and funding.

Benefit Communities: Support non-profit funded partners that deliver work experience placements, enhancing community benefits.

At an individual level, the objectives are:

Increased Skill Development: Participants gain essential skills and hands-on work experience, enhancing their employability and preparing them for in-demand jobs.

Increased Employability: By participating in the initiative, individuals improve their resumes and job prospects, making them more competitive in the labour market.

Increased Financial Support: The grant provides paid work experience to BCEA and Indigenous recipients across the province of B.C. including those impacted by tariffs, offering financial assistance to participants while they gain valuable work experience.

Improved Networking Opportunities: Participants have the chance to build professional networks and connections that can help them in their future careers.

Personal Growth: Engaging in meaningful work experiences helps individuals build confidence, develop a strong work ethic, and achieve personal growth.

Definitions

Applicant: Eligible organizations applying for a Work Experience Opportunities Grant.

Note: An application does not guarantee an award.

BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA): individuals who receive or are eligible to receive:

- Income Assistance (IA) under the Employment and Assistance Act
- Disability Assistance (DA) Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act
- Hardship Assistance (HA) under the Employment and Assistance Act
- Income assistance through the Person with Persistent Multiple Barriers to Employment (PPMB) benefit

Communities of Practice (CoP): Groups who share a common interest, profession, or area of expertise and who share knowledge, learn from one another, and improve their practices over time.

Funded Partner/Grant Recipient: Non-profits, charities, qualified donees, and Indigenous non-profits operating in B.C. who are awarded a Work Experience Opportunities Grant.

Grant: The total value of financial assistance provided by UWBC to a funded agency

Income Criteria: Individuals receiving or eligible for BCEA, disability assistance, or equivalent Indigenous federal assistance and who are not currently receiving WorkSafe benefits.

Indigenous Applicants: Indigenous-led or governed organizations or communities.

Note: for this grant, Indigenous people receiving equivalent federal assistance can only participate in work experience projects that occur on Indigenous reserves or treaty lands.

Indigenous Work Placement Participants: Individuals qualified to receive assistance from a First Nation Administering Authority that administers an income or disability assistance program funded through Indigenous Services Canada or Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

Intensity: For this grant, intensity refers to two streams of work experience intended to provide flexibility and accommodation to support persons who may have different abilities, need additional supports and who have other barriers to employment:

- **Low Intensity Option:** work experience placements that support individuals for 200 hours (for example 10 hours a week for 20 weeks)
- **High Intensity Option:** work experience placements where individuals participate for 240 hours (for example 20 hours per week for 12 weeks)

Note: the number of hours of participation per week is meant to be flexible and may include time for training, skills development, equipment and employment related activities.

Letter of Agreement (LOA): UWBC funding agreement.

Stipend: A fixed, regular payment provided to support an individual's participation in a program and is intended to help offset expenses rather than serve as full compensation.

Participant: Individuals selected to participate in a work experience as part of the WEOG initiative.

Training, skills development, and employment-related activities: Work placement related activities and support services that promote the success of individual participants.

Work Experience Opportunities Grant (WEOG): Initiative that aims to create work experience opportunities for individuals on assistance by collaborating with the non-profit sector.

Work Experience Placement/Placement: Fixed-term paid work opportunity providing recipients with essential skills and work experience to improve their employability and prepare them for in-demand jobs.

Key Dates and Timeline

Province-wide invitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an open call available province-wide through an online application process
Eligible funded partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC registered societies, federal charities, qualified donees and Indigenous partners operating in B.C.
Grant amounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5,000 per work placement up to a maximum of 10 placements (\$50,000) per year
Application opens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 12, 2026
Application closes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 24, 2026 Noon PST
Information Sessions (Virtual). Recording will be available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will be offering info sessions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 15, 2026, 11 AM-12PM Registration link: https://uwbc-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/AL6bGrklSXW4B57xdRuUPw
Funding made available to funded partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April-May 2026 for approved applicants. Work experience placements may commence upon award and must be completed by February 28, 2027
Work Experience Placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are expected to complete 200 hours (Low Intensity Option) or 240 hours (High Intensity Option) of work experience Each participant is to receive a stipend totaling a maximum of \$3,000 (low intensity) to \$3,600 (high intensity) for their work experience placement Recruiting can begin once funding confirmation is received Participant eligibility must be verified (see below) by successful applicants (guidelines to be provided) Each agency and participant will complete pre and post surveys All work experience placements must be completed by February 28, 2027
Unspent funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surplus or unspent funds must be returned to UWBC by March 31, 2027
For questions or support with the application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please contact: StaceyS@uwbc.ca

Eligibility Criteria

WEOG applicants

Eligibility and criteria:

- Eligible Funded partners must be:
 - Non-profit funded partners (societies) incorporated under the Societies Act (British Columbia); or
 - Charities and qualifying donees registered federally under the Income Tax Act; or
 - First Nation bands, governing bodies or Indigenous-led non-profits
- Based in or operating in British Columbia. There must be a physical office located in British Columbia.
- Registered non-profits or charities that own, operate, or administer a social enterprise are eligible to apply. In cases where a non-profit owns or operates a social enterprise, the work experience placement activities may take place at either the non-profit or the social enterprise business; however, in either case the non-profit society must hold the grant and administer the placement. This non-profit partnership does not extend to a partnership with a for-profit organization.
- Funded partners must be registered and in good standing (premiums, reporting) with WorkSafe BC, and must be compliant with all related Acts and Regulations
- Funded partners must have third party liability insurance.
- Each applicant must commit to monitor and support each participant for the duration of the placement
- Organizations must adhere to all federal, provincial, and regional public health orders to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases
- Funded partners with an existing WorkBC contract may apply for funding, however the WEOG funded activities may not duplicate services already provided under WorkBC contracts

Ineligible applicants

- For-profit businesses (including for-profit owned social enterprises), B Corporations and Community Contribution Companies
- Operations and activities outside the province of British Columbia
- Individuals

WEOG participants

Eligibility and criteria

The focus of grant funding is to support individuals who are recipients or eligible to receive income or disability assistance and who may have barriers to labour market participation.

- Each WEOG Participant must be:

- BCEA recipient or qualified to receive assistance under the Employment and Assistance Act; or
- On disability assistance or qualified to receive assistance under the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act; or
- Hardship Assistance (HA) recipients
- Income assistance through the Person with Persistent Multiple Barriers to Employment (PPMB) benefit
- Qualified to receive assistance from a Treaty First Nation that is funded through the Federal Department of Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada; or
- Qualified to receive assistance from a First Nation Administering Authority that administers an Income Assistance Program on behalf of Indigenous Services Canada.
- Each participant must be legally able to work in British Columbia.
- Indigenous people receiving equivalent federal assistance, can participate in work experience projects that occur only on Indigenous reserves or Treaty Lands.
- Individuals who have previously completed a work experience placement through the Work Experience Opportunities Grant may participate again in limited circumstances. Previous participants can participate at the same organization as the previous placement but cannot repeat the same work experience placement role.
- Where required, participants may transition between low and high intensity streams to accommodate changes in need for supportive services, employment readiness, etc. This transition may occur at the discretion of the grant holder; however, the grant holder must notify UWBC of the change.

Ineligible participants

The following individuals are not eligible to participate:

- Current WorkBC Wage Subsidy recipients
- Current employees in their existing positions

Ineligible activities

- Items that are deemed a conflict of interest such as cleaning the supervisor's personal property or other activities that contribute a personal service to the employer
- Political activities (political campaign or other partisan political activities)
- Faith-based activities.

Grant Requirements & Expectations

Funded partners will be expected to:

- Provide supervised, time-limited work experience in line with WEOG objectives
- Ensure 200-240 hours are completed per participant
- Verify participant eligibility (guidelines to be provided)
- Contact UWBC for circumstances where a potential conflict of interest may exist
- Disburse stipend payments fairly and timely
- Inform participants of their obligation to report income earned through the WEOG program and must provide the "Income Reporting Guidelines for PWD/PPMB Clients participating in the WEOG project" to each participant
- Determine participant eligibility and keep necessary records in accordance with legislation and regulatory requirements and make available proof of eligibility to UWBC if requested
- Provide training, skills development, and employment related supports and services to participants
- Complete and submit organization and participant pre- and post- work experience placement surveys, requested documentation and a final report to UWBC
- Participate in UWBC Communities of Practice
- Advise UWBC on any major interruptions or changes affecting successful completion
- Promote initiative as the "United Way BC Work Experience Opportunities Grant"
- Repay to UWBC any remaining grant amount by March 31, 2027
- For unionized employers, agreements, or letters of understanding to participate in the WEOG initiative are the responsibility of each applicant

Participant stipend

Participant Stipend	
A. <i>Low Intensity Option</i>	<p>Participants must complete a total of 200 hours of work experience. The total cost of participant stipends must be a maximum of \$3,000 per work experience placement.</p> <p>If an applicant fills a vacant placement with a second or subsequent participant, the total stipend for all participants in a single placement must be a maximum of \$3,000.</p>
B. <i>High Intensity Option</i>	<p>Participants must complete a total of 240 hours of work experience. The total cost of participant stipends must be a maximum of \$3,600 per work experience placement.</p> <p>If an applicant fills a vacant placement with a second or subsequent participant, the total stipend for all participants in a single placement must be a maximum of \$3,600.</p>
C. <i>Work Experience Categories</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration, clerical, and bookkeeping • Animal care • Arts, culture, and entertainment • Caregiving - child care and homecare (Elders and Seniors) • Community outreach, peer support and mentoring • Community safety • Cultural programming and activities • Data processing and IT • Environmental stewardship • Events and festivals • Food production, recovery, distribution, and services • General labour • Homelessness outreach and support • Indigenous programs (including cultural knowledge transfer) • Literacy • Manufacturing • Marketing, social media and communications • Property/building maintenance and janitorial • Recreation and sport • Research (Please specify) • Retail • Service projects such as park and beach clean-ups, recycling programs • Social programs (please specify) • Trades • Transportation • Special projects and other (Please Specify)

Administration, Training, Skills development, and Employment-related Supports	
Low Intensity Option	<p>The remaining grant amount of up to \$2,000 per work experience placement is for administration, participant training, skills development, equipment and employment related supports.</p> <p>Note: Allowable administration expense is up to 10%, or \$500, of the total WEOG grant amount.</p>
High Intensity Option	<p>The remaining grant amount of up to \$1,400 per work experience placement is for administration, participant training, skills development, equipment and employment related supports.</p> <p>Note: Allowable administration expense is up to 10% or \$500 of the total WEOG grant amount.</p>
Vacancies and adjustments to individual work experience hours	<p>If an applicant fills a vacant placement with a second or subsequent participant, the total cost of placement administration and participant supports for all participants in that placement continues from the original grant funds.</p>
Applicants will provide a range of services to support participants to build skills and abilities to participate in the local labour market	<p>Ensure participants have access to training, and employment supports to facilitate participation and successful completion (see below).</p> <p>Support services may be provided to participants to increase their success in the placement and employability at the end of the placement. These services may include on-the-job training and supervision, workplace orientation, entry-level certification, or employment readiness.</p> <p>Participants who require wrap around supports—such as transportation, childcare, essential work clothing, or other placement-related needs—can be referred to WorkBC for assistance. To access WorkBC’s support for these needs, successful agencies are encouraged to contact their local WorkBC centres to provide details of their work experience opportunity.</p> <p>A WorkBC centre may also refer a client directly to the work experience host organization.</p> <p>The individual supports provided to participants will vary based on participant need and the parameters of the placement.</p>

Training and Employment Support Activities	May include (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifications/Training • Digital literacy/tech support • Community involvement experiences such as events and festivals • Emotional support and counselling • Information/Referrals • Volunteer opportunities • Workshop/Learning activities • Other
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Ineligible activities

- Unrelated projects not directly supporting work experience
- Administration costs exceeding 10%
- Fundraising or political activity
- Assets not directly supporting work experience
- For-profit activities
- Capital items
- Current employee wage subsidies
- Travel (unless directly related to work experience placement)

Budget and financial guidelines

- **Grant amount:**
 - \$5,000 per placement (includes stipend, admin, and supports)
 - Up to 10 placements per organization (Max **\$50,000** per organization per year)
- **Stipend to participant:**
 - **Low Intensity:** 200 hours, \$3,000 maximum stipend per approved work experience placement
 - **High Intensity:** 240 hours, \$3,600 maximum stipend per approved work experience placement
- **Administration:**
 - up to 10% or \$500 to offset operating expenses and administrative costs such as project management, recruitment of participants, claims, and reporting.
- **Training, skills development, equipment and employment related supports:**
 - remaining funds to be used for direct program costs such as training, skills development, and employment related supports directly related to the work experience placement.

Note: This grant can be used in conjunction with other funding sources to support a participant in their work experience.

Please note applicants will be required to provide the most recent financial statements as part of the application.

Participation, evaluation and reporting

Throughout the year, UWBC will be requesting information and feedback on the WEOG Initiative.

Funded agencies will be required to:

- Sign a Letter of Agreement (LOA)
- Follow recommendation guidelines (use of logos, etc.)
- Complete WEOG reporting including (templates to be provided):
 - Pre- and post-placement surveys – Funded Agency
 - Participant evaluation – Funded Agency
 - Pre- and post-placement surveys – Participant
 - Check in updates
 - Final Report
- Notify UWBC of any concerns or issues arising related to the WEOG initiative
- Participate in Communities of Practice sessions (to be scheduled)
- Share stories of successes and lessons learned
- Provide UWBC with documentation for audit purposes

Note: All information collected through the WEOG Initiative is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and may be accessed, reviewed, or audited as required.