

## **UWBC WEOG – Meeting Chat**

**Date: April 22, 2026**

### General Questions & Program Info

Q: Will we get the results of the feedback summary?

A (UWBC): We will explore sharing results from previous rounds and provide an update at the next Community of Practice.

Q: What does BCEA mean?

A: BC Employment and Assistance (income or disability assistance from the Province).

Q: Is this program about preparing individuals for the workforce?

A: Yes, the program supports participants in gaining work experience and skills.

### Eligibility

Q: Is FN/Band social assistance eligible?

A: It depends on the type of assistance. Refer to the verification documents provided or contact the Ministry.

Q: Are individuals on EI eligible?

A: No, EI is a federal program and not eligible.

Q: Is there an age requirement?

A: No specific age requirement, but participants are typically adults due to BCEA criteria.

Q: Can participants on work permits apply?

A: Generally no, as they are typically not eligible for BCEA.

Q: Can current staff participate?

A: Likely not, depending on employment status and eligibility for BCEA.

Q: Can a youth (17) not on assistance participate?

A: No, participants must be on BCEA/PWD.

### Work Hours & Scheduling

Q: Can participants set their own hours?

A: Schedules are flexible but must be agreed upon by the organization and participant. Participants must complete 200–240 hours by February 28, 2027.

### Recruitment & Hiring

Q: Do we need to post externally if we have a candidate?

A: No, internal recruitment is allowed.

Q: Do we have to use the job posting template?

A: No, but required wording must be included.

Q: Can we adjust roles if we can't fill the original positions?

A: Yes, flexibility is encouraged.

#### Funding & LOA

Q: What if I haven't received my LOA?

A: Contact UWBC directly to confirm.

Q: When can participants start?

A: After the LOA is signed and funding is confirmed.

Q: When are funds released?

A: After the LOA is signed, based on UWBC's bi-weekly payment schedule and the terms in your LOA.

#### Stipends & Payroll

Q: Can stipends be paid bi-weekly or monthly?

A: Yes — follow your organization's normal payroll practices.

Q: Can stipends be paid at the end?

A: We encourage you follow your organization's normal payroll practices. Getting paid at the end can be discouraging for participants.

Q: Can we top up the stipend to minimum wage?

A: Yes, but it must still be presented as a stipend with a top-up (not salary).

Q: Can stipends be treated like payroll (EI/ CPP, etc.)?

A: Organizations can choose:

- T4 (with deductions), or
- T4A (no deductions; participant responsible for taxes)

#### Reporting

Q: Who reports income?

A: Participants report to the Ministry.

Q: Do organizations report monthly?

A: No, only participants report monthly.

Q: Do participants report to UWBC?

A: Monthly reporting is to the Ministry. For UWBC, they need to complete the pre and post surveys that are to be completed on their first shift (pre survey) and on their last shift (post survey). We have sent you the links.

Q: Do we need to teach participants how to report?

A: Participants should already know how, but organizations should review program-specific requirements with them.

Q: What is the organization's responsibility?

A: Inform participants of reporting requirements — after that, it is the participant's responsibility.

#### Expenses & Supports

Q: Is transportation covered?

A: Limited — bus passes may be possible; contact UWBC to discuss.

Q: Do we need to provide WorkSafe BC coverage?

A: Yes.

#### Administrative & Reporting Feedback

Comment: Reporting requirements feel heavy for small organizations.

UWBC Response: Feedback is appreciated; requirements are needed to meet Ministry reporting and support future funding.

#### Additional Questions

Q: Can we hire fewer participants than approved?

A: No, you must fund the number of participants that you have been approved for and is indicated on your LOA.

Q: Can WorkBC refer participants?

A: Yes, referrals are allowed.

Q: Do opportunities need UWBC approval before posting?

A: No.

Q: Can participants be placed with partner organizations?

A: Clarification may be needed — contact UWBC.

Q: Is there future funding (Round 3)?

A: No confirmation at this time.

#### Tax & Income Support Questions

Q: How does the stipend impact benefits?

A: Participants must confirm directly with the Ministry.

Q: Where can participants get help?

A: Ministry contact: 1-866-866-0800