

Transitioning Funding Support for Apprenticeship-related Programs from Human Services to Innovation and Advanced Education

Please use the answers in this Q&A to address similar questions learners, service providers and staff may pose.

Apprenticeship-related programs Q&A

L1. How have funding options for apprenticeship-related programs changed?

All Albertans seeking financial assistance for apprenticeship-related programs that start on August 1, 2015 or later can now apply for funding through Student Aid Alberta. Student Aid Alberta offers a combination of grants and loans for apprenticeship-related training. Information can be found at <http://studentaid.alberta.ca/>

L2. What are apprenticeship-related programs?

Apprenticeship-related programs are training programs that provide one or more periods of technical and on-the-job training in a designated trade. They must be recognized by Apprentice and Industry Training (AIT).

L3. How will this change impact Alberta Works funding to Albertans in apprenticeship-related programs?

Alberta Works funding will continue to be available to eligible learners with training start dates on or before September 30, 2015. Albertans may contact the Learner Income Support Office toll-free at 1-800-222-6485 or in Edmonton at 780-427-3722 to find out more about eligibility for Alberta Works grant funding.

Applications for Alberta Works funding for apprenticeship-related training that starts on or after October 1, 2015 will no longer be accepted. Albertans who are considering apprenticeship-related programs beyond October 1, 2015 need to contact Student Aid Alberta to ask about funding options they may be eligible for. They can call Student Aid toll-free at 1-855-606-2096 or check the website at studentaid.alberta.ca.

L4. Why has this change occurred?

The Alberta Government is realigning some programs and services to make sure Albertans have access to the supports they need to reach their full potential and participate in the workforce. Our student financial assistance programs are being streamlined to reduce duplication and make them more consistent and fair for Albertans who take post-secondary education, including apprenticeship-related programs.

L5. What if an individual has already submitted an application for Alberta Works funding for training that starts after September 30, 2015?

A letter will be sent to applicants explaining that funding options are now provided through Student Aid Alberta and no longer available through Alberta Works.

L6. What if learners have applied for funding through Student Aid Alberta and now want to apply for funding through Alberta Works?

A learner cannot receive funding from Student Aid Alberta and Alberta Works for the same training period. If a learner has been approved for apprenticeship-related funding through Student Aid Alberta, they have to cancel their Student Aid funding to receive an Alberta Works grant.

L7. Can apprentices who receive Alberta Works funding also receive Student Aid Alberta's new \$750 First Period Apprentice Award?

Yes, Albertans who receive Alberta Works Apprentice Income Support for their first period technical training will also be eligible for Student Aid's \$750 First Period Apprentice Award. This award is not considered student loan funding by Alberta Works, and when declared, will be assessed as a cash gift.

Apprentices in their first period of technical training can access the First Period Apprentice Award by logging into their secure [MyTradesecrets account](#) and following the instructions.

L8. Who can learners contact if they have questions about Student Aid Alberta or other funding options for apprenticeship-related training?

If learners would like more information about the financial assistance programs Student Aid Alberta provides, they can 1-855-606-2096 or check the website at studentaid.alberta.ca. For more information on the Canada Apprentice Loan and other federal funding options for apprentices, please visit www.esdc.gc.ca/en/esdc/initiatives/apprenticeship/index.page.