Youth Job Programs: Year-round and Summer

The Ontario government offers a number of Job Programs for Youth to help you get training, learn about career options, build skills for your career, prepare for interviews and make a resume, match up with employers, find jobs for summer break or get a job when you are done school for the year or graduated!

Some programs are available for all youth and some are designed for youth who might face challenges in finding employment due to limited experiences, poverty, a disability or mental health issues.

Youth Job Link is for youth ages 15 to 29 years old, living in Ontario and eligible to work in Canada. It doesn’t matter if you are in school or not or if you are currently employed or unemployed.

- Learn about career options
- Build your life skills for your career
- Write your resume, search and apply for jobs, and prepare for interviews
- Match up with employers offering job opportunities that fit with your skills and interests

Youth Job Connection is for youth ages 15 to 29 years old, living in Ontario, who are unemployed and not attending full-time school or training. If you are under 18, you must already be legally excused from school. This means that you have either graduated or are participating in a supervised alternative learning program approved by your school board. Consider this program if you are:

- an indigenous youth
- a recent immigrant
- young person living with a disability
- young person with limited work experience, or low level of education

Youth Job Connection provides youth with:

- At least 60 hours paid training to prepare for the workplace
- A job for up to six months
- Mentorship, job-coaching and help with the transition from school to work, or to ongoing employment once the program ends

Youth Job Connection Summer is for youth ages 15 to 18 years old, living in Ontario who is still in high school or moving on to post-secondary education. This program is also suitable for indigenous youth, recent immigrants, and young people with disabilities or limited work experience, or low level of education.

Youth Job Connection Summer helps young people to get:

- At least 20 hours of paid training for the workplace
- Summer jobs that last for up to eight weeks; (part-time afterschool jobs are available if they don’t conflict with school)
- Mentorship, job-coaching and help returning to school after the program ends
How to Apply
There are lots of different ways to apply or learn about employment programs in your area.

Check out the Employment Ontario website: [www.ontario.ca/page/employment-ontario](http://www.ontario.ca/page/employment-ontario)
- You can chat live with someone online by clicking on Go to live chat
- Click on Find Employment and Training Services and enter your postal code to find the address and phone number of a local employment agency.
- Click on Meet with a Counsellor to book an appointment with an employment counsellor in your area.
- Or call 1-800-387-5656 (toll-free) for help to learn what program would be right for you. Be sure to mention any special needs you might have to figure out for which programs you qualify.

**Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) also has Employment Supports programs for youth who qualify because of a substantial physical or mental disability that is expected to last a year or more, and makes it hard for you to find or keep a job. They can connect you with a community service provider to figure out what kinds of supports you need to help you get and keep a job.**


**DISCLAIMER:** This resource was developed in June 2016 and content was based on the following references. Changes can occur to programs at any time. This resource may not reflect changes made after this date nor will it include information from other sources not listed below. Please refer to original resources for comprehensive definitions and terms related to the program, eligibility criteria, determination of rates, additional benefits, and other important information.

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

**Government Websites**
Employment Ontario, Employment Programs for People Under 30
Website: [www.ontario.ca/page/jobs-and-employment](http://www.ontario.ca/page/jobs-and-employment)
Specific Link: Get Help Finding a Youth or Student Job
Accessed: June 2016