

Self-Employment Assistance

Self-Employment Assistance is an employment program that provides financial and entrepreneurial assistance to eligible individuals to help them create jobs for themselves by starting a business. It does not provide start up costs for a new business.

Information for Individuals

Am I Eligible?

You are eligible if you are an unemployed individual:

- Who has a current EI claim; or
- Whose EI benefit period ended within the last three (3) years; or
- Who has established a benefit period within the past five (5) years prior to the date of requesting assistance, was paid parental or maternity benefits, and are re-entering the labour force after having left it in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child.



Other criteria may apply.

How do I Apply?

- You will need to receive an employment assessment and develop a Return to Work Action Plan with a case manager at one of the nearest Employment Assistance Service (EAS) providers.
- The case manager's recommendation is required before Human Resources, Labour and Employment can assess your application.
- The EAS provider can guide you through the completion of the Self-Employment Assistance Employment Benefit Participant



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Key Facts

Qualification Date:

- The date your completed application is received by the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (HRLE) is the date when you are considered to have requested assistance.
- This date is used to determine whether you qualify as an "insured participant" within the timeframes outlined.

Extended Benefits:

- If you are currently receiving Employment Insurance benefits, you may continue to receive these benefits until the end of your benefit period, after which you may be eligible to receive a living allowance to the end of your Self-Employment Assistance agreement.
- If you are not in receipt of Employment Insurance benefits, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance for living expenses.

Financial Assistance:

- Assistance may be provided in **exceptional circumstances** to cover all or part of the following costs related to participation (e.g., dependent care, disability needs, transportation and accommodation).

Duration:

- The maximum duration of an agreement with a participant is 52 weeks, and 78 weeks for persons with a disability.

Contact Information

For information on the nearest EAS provider or HRLE LMDA Delivery office, or for general LMDA related inquiries please contact 1-800-563-6600. For general information and applications visit <http://www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle/lmda/default.htm>.