

Wage Subsidy FAQ for Job Seekers

Am I eligible for the Wage Subsidy program?

To be eligible for the Wage Subsidy (WS) program you must be unemployed or underemployed (working less than 20 hours per week), AND:

- Are currently receiving Employment Insurance benefits, OR
- Have worked and earned at least \$2,000 in EI insurable earnings in 5 of the last 10 years, OR
- Be an individual who meets the requirements of the Single Parent Employment Initiative, AND
- Have been identified by your Employment Counsellor as needing work experience to meet your employment goals

I'm not sure if I fit these eligibility requirements, my situation is different – what should I do?

Eligibility is always determined on your individual circumstances, so it's best to come and discuss your situation in person.

Can I apply for any job with the Wage Subsidy program? Can I take a part time job?

After being approved for the WS program, you can still apply for any job. However, Wage Subsidy is only offered for jobs that are 35 hours a week or more, and the employer must agree to the WS contract.

What kind of employers can hire me with WS?

The employer must be registered with Canadian Revenue Agency and WorkSafe BC, and have been in business for at least one year. The employer must be offering a fixed wage position to a new employee (not 100% commission or piece work). The employer must also be willing to provide you with training during the period of wage subsidy.

Will WS change the way I look for jobs? Do I have to do more?

As part of the WS program, you may have to document your Job Search activities more thoroughly, and report back to your Employment Counsellor more often so they can track your progress and offer coaching along the way.

How long does the process take once someone wants to hire me?

After you and the employer have met with the Wage Subsidy Contract Administrator and the paperwork has been completed, the process can be finished in as little as 1-2 business days.

What kind of paperwork is there during the hiring process?

For a Wage Subsidy agreement most of the paperwork is on the employer's end, but you will also be asked to complete a WS Application, a Consent Form and a WS Agreement.

How long will my Wage Subsidy last?

The length of the subsidy can vary, as it is dependent on the amount of on-the-job training you require.

How do I get paid? Do I get two different paycheques?

You will be paid in full by your employer as you would any job. Wage Subsidy then reimburses the employer, not you.

What happens if there's a problem on the job?

Employer/employee relations are no different under Wage Subsidy than they are usually. It's up to the new employee to arrive on time, do the work to the best of their ability, and have a positive attitude. It's up to the employer to provide training and provide feedback on the new hire's development. If problems arise, the Wage Subsidy Contract Administrator can help to mediate. Either party can terminate the employment during the Wage Subsidy period, which would end the agreement.

What happens after the Wage Subsidy ends?

The ultimate goal is regular, full-time employment with your new employer!