

1. What is the Grant for Apprenticeship Learning?

The Grant for Apprenticeship Learning is a government of Ontario apprenticeship initiative for non-Employment Insurance (EI) eligible apprentices. The Grant for Apprenticeship Learning will offer from a maximum of up to \$3,600 for apprentices per level of full-time in-class training successfully completed after April 1, 2020.

The grant is for apprentices who were not eligible for Employment Insurance while attending Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 in-class training. The grant aims to encourage apprentices to complete their required in-class training and, ultimately, their apprenticeship program.

This initiative is part of the government's plan to strengthen Ontario's apprenticeship and skilled trades system to ensure Ontario has the skilled workers it needs to succeed in tomorrow's economy.

2. Why is the government increasing financial support for apprentices through the Grant for Apprenticeship Learning?

Leaving paid on-the-job-training to attend in-class training for an apprenticeship can create financial stress for apprentices, especially those with young families. The Grant for Apprenticeship Learning will help to offset the lost income experienced by apprentices who are ineligible for Employment Insurance.

Our government is committed to preparing people for jobs and taking action to address the looming shortage of skilled workers. We are taking steps to ensure that Ontario's education and training systems are keeping pace with our growing economy to help prepare and engage young people for impactful careers in the skilled trades.

3. Who can apply for support?

To be eligible for the grant you must be:

- A registered apprentice who attended and successfully completed a full-time Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 in-class program after April 1, 2020
- Not eligible for EI benefits, not working or receiving Part I or Part II personal supports such as basic living allowance, transportation, living away from home allowance, dependent care, disability expenses and books
- Completed apprentices who are not in default of an Ontario Student Loan.

4. When can I apply for the grant?

Eligible apprentices will be identified by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) records when you have completed and passed a full-time in-class level of training. At that time, you will receive a letter and application from MLTSD indicating that you are eligible for the grant.

5. I completed my class before April 1, 2020, can I still qualify for the Grant?

Apprentices who completed a level of full-time in-class training before April 1, 2020, and who meet the remaining eligibility criteria, can apply to receive up to \$1,500 per level through the Support to Non-EI Eligible Apprentices grant. Please contact your Employment and Training Consultant for more information and to obtain this application.

6. How will MLTSD know if I am eligible for EI or not?

Eligible apprentices must include notification of their non-EI eligibility from Service Canada with their application for support, in the form of a Notice of Non-EI Eligibility Letter.

7. If I was in receipt of financial support through Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program while attending in-class training am I still eligible for the Grant?

Yes, apprentices who received financial support through Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) while in full-time in-class training can apply for the Grant, provided you meet the remaining eligibility criteria.

If you are still receiving these financial supports, please contact your OW or ODSP case worker to determine if receiving the Grant for Apprentice Learning would impact your payments.

8. I received financial support through my band council, am I still eligible for the Grant?

Yes, you are still eligible to apply for the Grant if you receive financial support through your band council, provided you meet the remaining eligibility criteria.

9. I did not receive my application in the mail because I changed address. How can I receive one?

Please contact your local MLTSD apprenticeship office to update your contact information and we will send you another application form.

10. Is there a deadline to apply?

There is a 180-day time limit from the completion date of your in-class training for you to submit your application.

11. Will I need to provide additional/supporting documents along with the application form?

Yes, you will need to include a copy of the notification from Service Canada that you are not eligible for EI benefits for the period you attended and completed your level of in-class training for which you are claiming the grant.

If you lose your Notice of Non-EI eligibility, Service Canada will mail you a replacement copy. You can visit the closest Service Canada Centre or call 1-866-742-3644.

12. How long will it take to process my grant application?

You should receive your grant within 6-8 weeks of MLTSD receiving your completed application. Note that an application that is not complete will not be processed and will be returned to you.

13. Is the grant taxable?

Yes, this is a taxable cash grant. Grant recipients will receive a T4A slip in the mail. The T4A slip will be sent to the mailing address you indicated on your grant application form.

14. Am I eligible for more than one grant?

You are eligible to receive a grant for each level of full-time in-class training you have successfully completed.

15. Do I need to complete a separate application form for each grant?

Yes, a separate application is required for each grant for which you are applying.

16. I am currently a high school student. Am I eligible for the Grant?

No. Individuals enrolled as regular full-time high school students are not eligible.

17. I am currently registered in a pre-apprenticeship program at my high school. Am I eligible for support?

No. To be eligible for the grant you must have graduated from high school.

18. Where do I go for more information?

Contact the Employment Ontario Contact Centre at 1-800-387-5656, TTY (telephone service for the deaf) 1-866-533-6339.

19. What can apprentices who receive the grant spend their money on?

There are no restrictions or conditions as to how recipients choose to spend their grant money.

20. Will I automatically receive a \$3,600 grant?

No, the amount you receive will be based on the total number of hours spent in a level of full-time classroom training, as follows:

- 240 hours or more you will receive \$3,600.
- 150 to 239 hours you will receive \$2,400.
- 30 to 149 hours you will receive \$1,200