

# Self-employment Assistance

## Description

Self-Employment Assistance program provides financial and entrepreneurial assistance to EI-eligible individuals to help them create jobs for themselves by starting a business. The maximum duration of a grant agreement with a participant is 52 weeks, and 78 weeks for persons with a disability.

Funding is provided through the Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA).

## Eligible Applicant

All applicants must:

- Be a resident of the province;
- Be Canadian citizens or permanent residents legally entitled to work in Canada;
- Participate in employment plan development with referral to Self-employment Coordinator;
- Have a preliminary business concept validated by Self-employment Coordinator;
- Meet the definition of an EI-eligible;
- Have completed a Client Consent Form for the exchange and/or release of information; and
- Have an Employment Plan that identifies Self-employment Assistance as an appropriate intervention for them.

## Eligible Funding

- Participants may receive support towards a living allowance, their EI Benefits, or a combination of both during their participation.
- The living allowance rate for Self-employment Assistance participants is set at \$524 per week.
- Other incremental costs may be provided, based upon the individual's needs.

### Eligible Business

The self-employment business shall be:

- A business that will not result in putting another individual out of business;
- Full-time, which means participants must devote at least 35 hours per week to developing and/or implementing their business plan. Fewer hours may be approved for a person with a disability that necessitates part-time employment; and,
- Either:
  - A new business; or
  - An existing business in which the eligible participant had no prior ownership.

### How to Apply

- Complete a [Request for Service Form](#); and
- Develop an employment plan at a local Employment Centre.

#### For additional information:

Call: 1-800-563-6600

Email: [EmploymentPrograms@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EmploymentPrograms@gov.nl.ca)