



# **GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

## **YOUTH SKILLS LINK**

**York / Richmond Hill HRCC  
HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CANADA  
(HRSDC)**

**CFP#: CFP-ON-0405-York-004**

**Deadline for Submission of Proposals is November 30, 2004 at  
4:00 p.m.**

**HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CANADA<sup>1</sup> (HRSDC)  
YOUTH SKILLS LINK  
GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS  
York / Richmond Hill HRCC**

**CFP#: CFP-ON-0405-York-004**

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| <b>CFP-ON-0405-York-004.01</b> | <b>Outreach / Client Assessment / Case Management</b> |
| <b>CFP-ON-0405-York-004.02</b> | <b>Group Based Employability Skills</b>               |
| <b>CFP-ON-0405-York-004.03</b> | <b>Employability Skills through Community Service</b> |
| <b>CFP-ON-0405-York-004.04</b> | <b>Employability Skills through Work Experience</b>   |
| <b>CFP-ON-0405-York-004.05</b> | <b>Employability Skills through Entrepreneurship</b>  |

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this application guide is to assist applicants in the preparation of a project proposal and application for funding.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) is presently accepting funding applications and project proposals from organizations interested in receiving financial assistance for the delivery of Youth Skills Link Activity.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has identified a community need for this type of service to youth facing barriers to employment in the York Region, Bradford / West Gwillimbury area, and may fund appropriate proposals through the Government of Canada Youth Employment Strategy.

HRSDC anticipates that there is a need for the services identified above to a variety of unemployed youth over a six month to one year period (depending on community size, location and type of service).

HRSDC expects to support eligible costs in the range of \$100,000 to \$400,000 (depending on community size, location and type of service).

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<sup>1</sup> Canada Employment Insurance Commission (CEIC) is the legal name for Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and the two names are interchangeable for the purposes of this document.

The closing date to submit an application for funding is November 30, 2004. All applications must be received at the York / Richmond Hill HRCC no later than 4:00 pm on the closing date. **Please note that funding applications submitted after this deadline will be disqualified.**

Financial assistance under the Youth Skills Link Program is provided in the form of a contribution subject to the terms and conditions of a contribution agreement between the HRSDC and the successful proponent. Contributions are Transfer Payments under Canada's Treasury Board's Policy on Transfer Payments.

HRSDC reserves the right to sign contribution agreements with more than one applicant to deliver these activities.

At its sole discretion, HRSDC reserves the right to modify any of the CFP dates and the right to cancel this CFP at any time for any reason. HRSDC is not responsible for any costs incurred by organizations for the preparation of CFP proposals.

### **1.1 - Application Package**

Proposals must meet the requirements set out in this application package. An application package must be completed, signed by the authorized representative of the organization, and submitted to HRSDC prior to the closing time and date of the Call for Proposals. Please note that no additional documents will be accepted after the deadline unless requested by HRSDC. In order to be included in the assessment and recommendation process, your application package must include the following completed documents:

1. Application for Funding form - EMP 5209 (02-03) E
2. Forecast of Cash Flow form - EMP 5216 (01-03) E
3. Budget Negotiation Notes
4. Copies of your proposals described in section 1.2 of this guide.

**Note:** Failure to submit all of the above completed documents may result in disqualification.

**Note:** Only one (1) application will be received from a single organization. Applicants may submit proposals for a maximum of two (2) locations under this Call for Proposals.

## **1.2 - Submitting an application package**

Applicants must submit four (4) paper copies of their completed application package (one copy must be the original signed document) and one electronic version of the proposal on a clearly labelled disk (diskette or CD-ROM, and preferably in MS Word, or Rich Text Format). Faxed or E-mailed proposals will not be accepted. Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 pm on the closing date at the address below:

Call for Proposals  
CFP-ON-0405-York / Richmond Hill-004.xx  
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada  
35 Beresford Drive  
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4B 4M3

No funding decisions are expected before February 13, 2005.

NOTE: HRSDC staff will not assist organizations in the development of their proposals. Technical questions relating to the process may be directed via e-mail to [ON-Richmond\\_Hill-CFP@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:ON-Richmond_Hill-CFP@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca).

Responses will be provided at an in person information session scheduled for November 23, 2004 at Richmond Hill HRCC, 35 Beresford Drive, Richmond Hill, Ont., between 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants must register to attend this session by contacting Emilia Bieniek at (905)886-7662 Ext 281. Registration will be limited to a maximum of two participants per organization.

The approval of successful proposals will be subject to the negotiation of a contribution agreement; and HRSDC is under no obligation to approve any application through this process.

## **2. YOUTH SKILLS LINK PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **2.1 - Program Description**

Skills Link helps youth facing barriers to employment develop the skills, knowledge and work experience they need to participate in the job market. This program offers a range of activities that can be tailored to meet individual needs and provide more intensive assistance over longer periods of time.

Skills Link introduces a client-centred approach based on assessing the specific needs of individual youth. During the client assessment process, employability skills, issues and needs are identified, as well as employment goals. Youth

selected to participate in Skills Link activities then develop an employment action plan and are case managed by an advisor. The case managers guide and support participants while they work through their employment action plans and develop their employability skills. Youth benefit from this client-centred approach and the ongoing support that helps them to successfully complete activities and, ultimately, find and keep a job.

Youth Skills Link offers a menu of activities that can be mixed and matched to provide individualized, integrated support.

Youth Skills Link services may include, but are not limited to:

**CFP-004.01: (Outreach / Client Assessment / Case Management)**

**Outreach** - This activity involves proactive efforts to connect with specific priority clients within the youth population that do not actively seek out employment services. Once contact is made, these young people are encouraged to consider employability assistance, and ultimately engage them in a client assessment process.

**Client Assessment** - A process by which an individual's employability assets, issues and needs are identified, as well as their employment goals. Client assessment enables a clear identification of the needs, goals and gaps that are being addressed, and a better match of interventions with individual needs. As well, it provides a means for those young people not yet ready to deal with employability issues to be referred to appropriate sources of assistance within the community.

**Case Management** - A process by which a participant is provided with guidance and support while working through an action plan. The key elements of case management are as follows: Implementing the action plan; Coordinating action plan activities; Monitoring participant progress; Identifying and addressing any issues that may affect participation; Adjusting action plan as required; Closing action plan; Determining and documenting outcomes; and Conducting follow-up.

**CFP-004.02: (Group-based Employability Skills)**

This type of activity provides groups of young people with life and employability skills, as defined by the Conference Board of Canada, normally in a workshop setting. These interventions which may be up to 24 weeks in length, are pre-employment activities for youth who are not yet prepared to enter the world of work or who need further development before undertaking a work experience activity.

Conference Board of Canada website: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca>

**CFP-004.03: (Employability Skills through Community Service)**

This type of activity enables young people to acquire life and employability skills by working in teams. Youth build their skills in workshops tailored to participant needs; these skills are then reinforced through community service. These interventions are often appropriate for young people who are not yet ready to work with an employer.

**CFP-004.04: (Employability Skills through Work Experience)**

This type of activity blends skill-building opportunities with work experience. Youth participate in workshops on life and employability skills and learn to apply these skills during work placements with employers. The majority of participant time is spent working with employers: for example, three days per week may be spent in the work placement while the remaining two days are spent in skill-building sessions. Employers coach their young employees to maximize the benefit gained by through the intervention. These interventions can be done on an individual or group basis.

**CFP-004.05: (Employability Skills through Entrepreneurship)**

This type of activity provides young people entrepreneurial skills within an activity where the focus is exposure of participants to the world of self-employment. Workshops that help build participants' entrepreneurial skills are blended with periods where participants develop their business plans and launch and operate their own business.

Under the contribution agreement, eligible costs are reimbursed on actual expenditures and allowed costs which are required for the success of the specific project, not general operating costs of the organization. This can include some overheads such as wages, leasing of equipment, rent, special needs for persons with disabilities and small capital assets (i.e. computers for staff of project.). Additional financial support may be provided to youth who participate in Youth Skills Link activities, as well as amounts required to accommodate those participants with disabilities. Any additional support must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Please refer to section 4 of this guide for more details of eligible costs.

**2.2 – Youth Skills Link Program Funding Priorities**

The focus of Skills Link is to help youth overcome barriers to employment, to help youth develop a broad range of skills and knowledge in order to participate in the current and future labour market and to promote education and skills as being key to labour market participation. These barriers include, but are not limited to, challenges faced by recent immigrant youth, youth with disabilities, lone parent youth, youth who have not completed high school, aboriginal youth, and those youth living in rural or remote areas.

Local strategic priorities are to continue to take an integrated, community based approach in response to issues facing the unemployed and where services benefit the unemployed as they move towards re-employment, responding to and supporting their labour market needs and supporting the ongoing development of a comprehensive Community Service Delivery Network (CSDN) to service the employment needs of local communities. Local funding priorities are to strengthen the community infrastructure to respond to and support the labour market needs of citizens.

### **2.3 - Eligible Organizations**

Applicants eligible to receive funding from HRSDC for Youth Skills Link projects include:

- businesses<sup>2</sup>, including federal crown corporations found on Schedule III, Part II of the Financial Administration Act (FAA) and comparable provincial crown corporations. The FAA can be found at: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/F-11/index.html>
- organizations (including not-for-profit, professional, employer and labour associations);
- individuals;
- public health and educational institutions;
- band/tribal councils, Aboriginal organizations; and
- municipal governments.

Proposals will only be considered from qualified organizations that can demonstrate the following prerequisites:  
(Please ensure that you address these points in the relevant sections of your proposal, as noted.)

- The applicant has been registered as a legal entity in Ontario and providing service for two or more years in the City of Toronto or the Regional Municipalities of York or Peel. (Section 3.9)
- The applicant can demonstrate that it has a minimum of two years' experience providing employment information and services to unemployed youth. (Section 3.9)
- The applicant can demonstrate that it has access to funding sources other than HRSDC. (Section 3.9)
- The applicant has experience managing significant amounts of funding from other sources such as governments, charitable organizations/foundations, or private sector partners. (Section 3.10)

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<sup>2</sup> Note to potential private sector applicants: As indicated in Section 4.2 below, profit is an ineligible expense and cannot be reimbursed under the Treasury Board of Canada's Transfer Payment Policy, which applies to all of the Government of Canada's contribution programs. (Ref. Appendix C, 1.vii of the policy, [http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs\\_pol/dcgpubs/TBM\\_142/ptp1\\_e.asp#\\_Toc482671182](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs_pol/dcgpubs/TBM_142/ptp1_e.asp#_Toc482671182).)

- The applicant will provide service for a minimum of 35 hours/week. (Section 3.4)

Note: In order to avoid the perception of a potential conflict of interest, organizations that are in a position to influence client return-to-work action plans should not be perceived to themselves benefit from the implementation of those action plans, or have ties with any institution, organization or employer that could so benefit.

## **2.4 - Eligible Participants**

To participate in Youth Skills Link, participants must be:

- between 15 and 30 years of age (inclusive) at the time of intake/selection;
- out of school;
- a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person on whom refugee status has been conferred;
- legally entitled to work according to the relevant provincial/territorial legislation and regulations;
- not in receipt of Employment Insurance (EI) benefits; and
- in need of assistance in order to overcome employment barriers.

Skills Link participants are youth at greater risk than others of not making a successful transition to the workplace and establishing themselves within the labour market. This includes, but is not limited to, challenges faced by recent immigrant youth, youth with disabilities, lone parent youth, youth who have not completed high school, Aboriginal youth, and those youth living in rural or remote areas. The assessment of risk encompasses a broad range of social, economic and demographic factors. All factors considered must be documented in the client's file.

It is important that sponsors and employers be made aware of participant eligibility criteria in order to reduce the incidence of recruitment of ineligible participants. Sponsors/employers should also be informed that any participant not meeting the eligibility requirements may be replaced. Costs incurred for ineligible participants will not be considered as eligible costs under Skills Link unless it can be shown that the employer was misinformed of the eligibility of the participant.



For the purpose of this proposal the clients we are interested in serving are: unemployed youth having difficulty in making transition to work. As well, we are interested in serving unemployed youth with significant barriers. (may include but not be limited to immigrant youth, visible minority youth, youth with disabilities, lone parent youth, youth who have not completed high school, Aboriginal youth, youth with behavioural problems, youth facing trouble with the law and youth experiencing abuse).

## **2.5 - Duration of the Contribution Agreement**

Projects funded through this Call for Proposals process are expected to begin in April to June 2005. The duration of the contribution agreement may be up to three years. The duration of the contribution agreement cannot extend beyond March 31, 2008 due to present program authorities expiring on that date.

## **3. PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION**

The font size on the proposal must be no smaller than 12 point Arial and should be printed on 8.5" x 11" paper. The maximum length for each section of the *Proposal Description* is indicated below. To ensure that proposals include the necessary information and requirements, the elements outlined below must be included as part of the *Proposal Description*:

### **3.1 - Project Title**

Provide a project title for the proposal.

### **3.2 - Project Summary (max. 500 words = approx 2 pages)**

Provide a short summary of the project that includes the number of participants, the location, the duration, and the nature of the service activity.

### **3.3 - Project Objectives (250 words)**

This section should provide a clear and measurable description of what the project is expected to achieve.

### **3.4 - Proposed Activities and Timelines (4,000 words)**

The activities are a key component of a proposal and should be clearly defined. This section should include:

- specific activities and timelines, from project start date to project completion
- an outline of how these activities will support the achievement of the project's objectives, including a description of any required tools/models
- an outline of the organization's plan on how it will manage the proposed project (e.g. use existing management resources, hire a project manager, etc.)
- details on the number of staff, their job titles and roles, and the competencies and qualifications required, including any professional certifications
- a statement regarding any intention to contract or subcontract a portion of the activities and services (specifying which ones and include rationale), and the process to be used (see section 6.5 below)
- proposed location of any facility, and plans to ensure that this location provides reasonable accessibility to the targeted clients (e.g. accessible by public transit where applicable, central location, wheelchair accessible, adequate hours of operation etc.)
- plans to collect and report data on results for participants, including 12 week follow-up where necessary and providing data to HRSDC
- monitoring and evaluation procedures, including process and timelines
- describe appropriate service standards (e.g. speed of service, quality, resource maintenance, handling complaints, resolving IT problems etc.)
- description of how project will integrate service with existing resources and programs with the community
- an explanation of how the organization plans to serve an ethnically, racially and economically diverse client base
- a description of the organization's processes and controls to manage access to personal and confidential information (if appropriate)
- an outline of the organization's policy on or methods of dealing with conflicts of interest

### **3.5 - Description of the Selected / Targeted Participants (500 words)**

Participant information should describe the:

- criteria and method for selection of participants
- proposed number of participants
- distribution plan across the geographic area to be served (targeted location of participants)
- participants, if any, specifically targeted (such as employment equity designated groups)
- means by which participant eligibility will be verified (if needed)

- means by which clients of previous provider of a similar service would be incorporated in the event that this CFP process results in a change in sponsors (if applicable)

Please note: Contribution recipients must clearly demonstrate that all project participants will be formally assessed and case managed.

### **3.6 - List of all Partner Organizations, their Roles and Responsibilities, and Financial Contributions (monetary/in-kind) (500 words)**

This section must be completed if HRSDC would not be the sole funder for this project. If there will be other contributions to the project, either monetary or in-kind, from either the applicant or other third parties (e.g. the private sector, not-for-profit organizations, other levels of government), please specify:

- the source(s) of the contribution(s)
- the amount from each source
- the relationship between the various funders and the applicant;
- if the other funders will have an active role to play in the project (i.e. not just financial), provide details concerning their specific roles and responsibilities, and their relevant experience (if any)

Note: Prior to agreement signing, HRSDC may request written confirmation of other funding commitments, including monetary and/or in-kind contributions.

### **3.7 - Expected Results (250 words)**

This section should provide a clear statement of:

- number of clients to be served and the expected number of clients that will be employed and/or return to school twelve (12) weeks following the completion of the project;
- expected outcomes, including how project activities will assist participants in acquiring self sufficient employability skills, preparing for and obtaining employment, maintaining employment or returning to advanced studies;
- targets for the number of eligible clients participating in the project and the number of participants who will have completed the project and are achieving the results listed above; and
- other positive outcomes related to proposed activities.

### **3.8 - Means by which Success will be Measured (500 words)**

Applicants should provide a description of how participant progress and success, as well as the overall success of the project will be measured, monitored and reported. Applicants should also indicate how they would respond if the desired results were not being achieved partway through the project, or if they identified emerging needs and/or a changing local environment during the life of the project.

### **3.9 - Applicant's Background, Mandate and Expertise (1000 words)**

This section should include:

- a brief description of the organization's history and number of years in business (include incorporation documents and the names of the corporate officers and/or board of directors, as appropriate)
- the organization's mandate and traditional ongoing activities
- the organizational chart
- a description of the organization's experience in dealing with the participants targeted for the service to be funded (e.g. the unemployed in general, youth, youth facing barriers to employment, persons with disabilities, etc.)
- the most recent audited financial statement, or a list of current funding sources<sup>3</sup>
- Legal status of the organization
- Members of the Board

### **3.10 - Past Projects with HRSDC and Other Departments and Related Achievements (500 words)**

This section (if applicable) should include a description of:

- previous experience in delivering employment-related projects funded by HRSDC and by other federal departments, provincial, territorial or municipal governments (name of project/date/length/funding); and
- previous projects that have produced successful results.

If you are applying for similar funding from other government departments this year, please indicate: name of government department, funding requested, number of participants and how activities differ from the ones requested in this proposal to HRSDC.

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<sup>3</sup> Note: HRSDC is required to ensure that "a dependency on government funds [is] not being created" through its funding (*National Operations Guide*). Program funds can only be used for identifiable projects, not for core funding or ongoing operational expenses.

Please note that HRSDC may consult other federal government departments to confirm past achievements and to ensure that the proposed activities are not a duplication of similar projects.

### **3.11 - Evidence of Community Labour Market Needs (500 words)**

This section should provide a description of the local community, including information concerning:

- geographic, socio-economic and labour market factors
- any relevant community planning/consultation process carried out
- how the project links to labour market needs

### **3.12 – Youth Skills Link Priorities (1000 words)**

This section should include a description on how the proposal meets Youth Skills Link program priorities, eligibility criteria and funding priorities. See section 2.2 of the application guide.

### **3.13 - Environmental Impact of Proposed Activities (if any)**

Applicants must provide a description of any environmental impact of the project and the results of any environmental assessment that has been undertaken, where required under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*<sup>4</sup>.

## **4. BUDGET**

Applicants must complete the *Application for Funding - EMP 5209 (02-03) E*. Applicants must also attach the details on how the cost for each budget item was determined.

As this is a generic form for various HRSDC programs, some categories may not be eligible for funding under the Youth Skills Link program and should not be used (see list of ineligible expenses in section 4.2 of this guide).

Please note that applicants must detail monetary and/or in-kind contributions from other sources that reflect a commitment to the success of the project.

In this section of the proposal, please also describe the processes and financial controls implemented in your organization to ensure that finances are protected and used appropriately.

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<sup>4</sup> For further information about the requirements under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, visit the Department of Justice Canada Web site at [http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/index\\_e.htm](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/index_e.htm).

Applicants who intend to use a contractor or subcontractors to perform specified duties or activities must specifically identify the related costs.

#### **4.1 - Eligible Expenses**

Generally, reimbursement of eligible costs can cover some overhead and minimal, small capital assets. Financial assistance may be provided to cover all or a portion of the costs associated with operating and delivering approved activities. Eligible costs may include but are not limited to:

- stipends, wages and the mandatory and other employment-related costs;
- licences, permits, fees for professional services
- bank charges, utilities, material, supplies, travel, insurance, rental of premises, leasing or purchase of equipment, audits, assessment and evaluations
- expenses relating to specialized arrangements or equipment for persons with disabilities
- income support to individuals should be equal to the prevailing provincial/territorial minimum wage. Additional support may be provided on a case by case basis, and could include incremental expenses such as daycare and transportation.
- costs associated with workers' compensation
- costs associated with some limited central administrative functions that are required to support agreement activities
- costs related to contracted and subcontracted aspects of the project; subject to HRSDC approval

#### **4.2 - Ineligible Expenses**

Ineligible expenses include items such as the following:

- any project costs incurred before an agreement is approved and signed by HRSDC
- costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal (including lobbyist fees)
- tuition costs - public/private
- contingency fees
- entertainment costs and club memberships
- fines or penalties
- profit
- land, buildings and other capital costs for the construction of buildings (other than small repairs or renovations to support the participation of persons with disabilities)
- vehicles
- depreciation on fixed assets

## **5. FORECAST OF CASHFLOW**

Applicants must also complete the *Forecast of Cash Flow* form (EMP 5216 (01-03) E and submit it with the application package. It is important that the monthly breakdown of the budget reflect as closely as possible the sponsor's projected financial requirements and any explanations as needed (without use of abbreviations).

## **6. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **6.1 - General Liability Insurance**

Applicants must provide general liability insurance coverage that covers all participants, project coordinators, and staff for damages they might cause to third parties in carrying out project activities. HRSDC however, makes no warranty or representation as to the adequacy of the policy coverage. The applicant is solely responsible for determining the policy's adequacy and for obtaining any additional insurance required.

HRSDC may cover participants for physical damages and/or personal injury. The comprehensive general liability insurance provided by the department, however, is subject to certain exclusions, in particular the use of a vehicle. In such cases, recipients should ensure that they have adequate automobile insurance coverage, whether public or private.

If applicants already have comprehensive general liability insurance, they must ensure their insurance is valid for the duration of the contribution agreement.

### **6.2 - Workers' Compensation**

The applicant must arrange for workers' compensation coverage, or similar coverage, to cover participants and staff where required by law in each province or territory.

### **6.3 - Health and Safety**

Applicants must ensure that participants are in a safe environment throughout the project. Where applicable, it is the applicant's responsibility to supervise the participants' work, provide health and safety information, and provide information sessions and safety equipment (if required) for all participants employed.

For further information about health and safety, please refer to the brochure “*Are You in Danger? It Only Happens to Others...*”, available at the nearest Human Resources Development Canada office or on the Internet at:

<http://www.youth.gc.ca/security>.

#### **6.4 - Official Languages**

It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide any services and activities, and offer any notices, advertisements or other materials relating to the project in both official languages according to instructions issued by HRSDC officials.

#### **6.5 - Sub-Contracting and Contracting procedures**

Project sponsors may choose to seek the assistance of another organization in achieving the objectives or delivering the activities necessary to support the proposed employment intervention. The costs associated with this assistance then become project costs and could be charged to the project paid by HRSDC. Any intention to enter into such an agreement with another organization must:

- be disclosed to HRSDC,
- may require prior written approval of HRSDC, and
- represent fair market value. Depending on the value of the contract a fair and competitive process with at least three bids may be necessary.

Applicants must declare any conflict of interest related to the use of possible contractors or sub-contractors. Examples of conflict of interest may include, but would not be limited to organizational affiliations, forms of ownership arrangements, shared board members etc. HRSDC must be informed of these types of scenarios, and sponsors must receive formal written approval from HRSDC prior to entering into such contracting or sub-contracting arrangements.

#### **6.6 - Fee for Participation in a Project**

Applicants must not request the payment of any charge or fee from the participants for their participation in the project.

#### **6.7 - Nepotism**

No wages paid to any administrative staff who is a member of the applicant’s immediate family, or a member of the family of a director or senior officer of the applicant, is eligible for reimbursement under the contribution agreement unless there is prior approval by HRSD.

To further clarify, immediate family means:

- father, mother, stepfather or stepmother;
- foster parent;



- brother or sister;
- spouse or common-law partner;
- child, including child of common-law partner, stepchild, ward;
- father-in-law, mother-in-law; or
- any relative permanently residing with the coordinator or a director or senior officer of the applicant.

## **6.8 - Audit and Holdback**

All contribution agreements valued at \$350,000 or more are required to undergo at least one audit by an external auditor. HRSDC may also require an audit for selected agreements valued at less than \$350,000 (e.g. if the activity is high-risk, or if HRSDC does not have a previous funding history with that organization). This expense would be included in the eligible project costs. HRSDC will withhold a specified percentage of its contribution payable under the agreement until the final claim has been received and verified and the final auditor's report has been received. Further details on this requirement will be provided to successful applicants during agreement negotiations.

## **6.9 Conflict of Interest**

All apparent or actual conflicts of interest, existing or potential, must be disclosed in the proposal. During the operation of the project, any conflict of interest that may arise must be disclosed to HRSDC and resolved to the satisfaction of HRSDC.

## **7. ASSESSMENT OF SUBMISSIONS/ PROPOSALS**

The criteria-based assessment process for evaluating submissions/proposals ensures that all submissions/proposals are evaluated objectively against the parameters and criteria contained in this application package.

Each submission/proposal will be assessed against the following 6 general criteria. Those are:

1. Integrity and Probity (e.g. positive feedback from clients)
2. Organizational Profile ( e.g. accessibility of facilities for clients)
3. Human resources Plan (e.g. appropriate number of staff for scope of work described)
4. Service Delivery Plan (e.g. career support tools suitable for client group(s))

5. Labour Market Knowledge (e.g. demonstrated knowledge of community needs), and
6. Budget (e.g. overhead costs represent fair market value)

Following the assessment and approval of the submission/proposal, you will be notified in writing of HRSDC's decision. **Please note that the lowest proposal will not necessarily be accepted. HRSDC reserves the right to reject some or all proposals.**

### **7.1 - The Contribution Agreement**

Once appropriate proposals are identified, they become subject to the negotiation of a formal contribution agreement between HRSDC and the applicant. Project activities must not commence until the applicant and HRSDC sign an agreement. Costs incurred prior to both parties signing the contribution agreement will not be reimbursed.

### **7.2 - Ongoing Monitoring and Follow-up**

Contribution recipients will be instructed to submit both financial and progress reports to assess the project's effectiveness. Contribution recipients will also be required to provide reports on participant results following the project's completion.