



Ontario Centre for
Workforce Innovation

Centre ontarien
Innovation-Emploi

Research Opportunities

Presented by:

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Agenda

- + Purpose of webinar
- + OCWI context
- + OCWI research portfolio
 - Case Studies
 - Targeted Projects
 - Exploration Projects
 - Demonstration Projects
- + Selected Areas of Research
- + Q&A

Purpose of webinar

- + Unveil OCWI research portfolio
- + Highlight objectives, eligibility, criteria and submission process for each research opportunity
- + Highlight selected areas of research
- + Provide question and answer period

Our mandate

To work with all stakeholders in the Ontario E&T sector to build commitment to, and capacity for:

- + evidence-informed practices
- + evaluation and continuous improvement
- + collaboration

Why it matters?

Evidence will help:

- + prepare the E&T sector for the rapidly changing labour market in Ontario
- + identify solutions and approaches that can be used across the E&T sector
- + limit the duplication across the E&T sector

Our core activities



Innovative Research

- + Use research & evaluation to identify and test solutions to workforce development challenges.



Knowledge Sharing

- + Translate research results into information and dissemination tools that can be easily accessed, and used by stakeholders.



Capacity Building

- + Provide all stakeholders with learning opportunities and training to implement evidence -informed approaches to planning or innovation.



Our Research Portfolio

CASE STUDIES

**TARGETED
PROJECTS**

**EXPLORATION
PROJECTS**

**DEMONSTRATION
PROJECTS**



Case Studies

Objective

To identify and explore existing and innovative practices/success stories across Ontario.

Opportunity

You recommend a success story or idea and OCWI will develop it into a formal case study for broader sharing and promotion.



Case Studies

Eligibility

Workforce development professionals from Ontario-based organizations who are willing to:

- + Commit to a rigorous approach to research
- + Work with OCWI for a minimum of 6 weeks
- + Participate in interviews, focus groups and other forms of data collection

Criteria

- + Demonstrated impact in local community
- + Potential for province-wide application



Case Studies: Process

- + Submit your story/idea online at **ocwi-coie.ca/case-studies**
(you can submit more than one)
- + No deadline – submit anytime
- + Submissions reviewed by OCWI Research and Evaluation sub -committee
(Meeting dates for 2017 are July 27, September 28, and November 23)
- + Notified within one week of sub-committee meeting
- + If chosen, we work with you to develop research and evaluation framework
- + Case study begins



Targeted Research Projects

- + Short-term, narrowly scoped projects around an identified need or opportunity with the potential for impact, but for which limited or no data exist.
- + These projects generally focus on exploration (rather than implementation) of an issue.
- + Determined through organic conversation with OCWI. There is no formal submission process.



Targeted Research Examples

Job search support for clients with mild/moderate mental health issues

Principal Investigator: Ira Schweitzer

Objective: To develop a best practices framework that EOES providers can use to support the job search of clients with mild-to-moderate mental health issues.

Description: This project will gather and evaluate case studies from local Employment Ontario Employment Services (EOES) experiences across the province to answer these questions.

The changing profile of the unemployed, underemployed and non-working population in Rural and Urban Ontario

Principal Investigator: Dr. B. Moazzami

Objective: To provide baseline information about the labour market characteristics and the changing profile of unemployed, underemployed and non-working Ontarians in rural and urban settings.

Description: This project will examine various causality/correlation hypotheses regarding different factors influencing the current state of employment, unemployment, etc.

Have an idea? Contact us!



Exploration Projects

Objective

To test community-identified solutions to workforce sector challenges using an exploratory workshop and research design process.

Opportunity

You suggest an idea for a research project on one of the selected areas of research below, and OCWI provides the framework, resources and partners required to turn your idea into a strong research project.

OLDER
WORKERS
E&T SUPPORTS

SHARED APPRENTICESHIP
MODELS

DEMAND-LED
EMPLOYMENT
STRATEGIES

CONTEXTUALIZED
ESSENTIAL SKILLS

CAREER
PATHWAYS



Exploration Projects

Eligibility

Workforce development professionals from Ontario-based organizations that demonstrate the required capacity and commitment

Criteria

- + Idea should feature tools, approaches or initiatives that support the selected area
- + Rigorous research potential
- + Capacity to meet province-wide need
- + New opportunity rather than existing initiative
- + Approaches that build, or expand, collaborative networks



Exploration Projects: Process

- + Submit your idea at **ocwi-coie.ca/exploration** on or before July 10, 2017
- + Invitation to workshop week of July 17, 2017
- + One-day workshop held between July 24 - August 11, 2017
- + Full project proposal due on or before August 23, 2017
- + Notification by August 25, 2017
- + Project kick-off meeting week of September 11, 2017
- + Projects must be completed by August 31, 2018



Demonstration Projects



Objective

To generate new evidence on best practices and promising approaches to delivering employment and training services through rigorous and intensive evaluation.

Opportunity

Employment and Training service providers can explore – from design through evaluation - new and innovative approaches to service delivery on one of the selected areas of research below, with technical and research support from OCWI.

CAREER
PATHWAYS

CLIENT-CENTRED SERVICE

CONTEXTUALIZED
ESSENTIAL SKILLS

INTEGRATED MENTAL
HEALTH SUPPORTS

YOUTH TRANSITIONAL
JOBS



Demonstration Projects

Eligibility

Employment and Training service providers. Some priority areas require the involvement of specific providers such as Youth Job Connection and Literacy & Basic Skills. Each opportunity will indicate which providers are eligible.

Criteria

- + An interest, willingness and capacity to implement a rigorous and intensive research approach, including co-designing the process, evaluating the framework and analyzing the impact and outcomes
- + Capacity to track service delivery and client outcomes



Process

Demonstration Projects:

- + Submit your proposal online at **ocwi-coie.ca/demonstrations**
- + OCWI will select service providers for each project
 - Contextualized Essential Skills (minimum six LBS providers)
 - Client-centred service (up to 10 EO providers)
 - Career Pathways (up to six LBS providers)
 - Integrated Mental Health Supports (minimum of six EO providers)
 - Youth Transitional Jobs (minimum of five YJC providers)
- + Project kick-off meetings



Career Pathways



CAREER PATHWAYS

- + Currently insufficient options to accommodate the wide range of skills and training opportunities to meet local labour market needs
- + Preliminary evidence suggests industry-centered career pathway programs can increase educational attainment, employment and wages for low-skilled adult workers



Client-centred Service



- + E&T providers have told us about the lack of flexible, individualized and responsive service approaches for job seekers with a variety of needs
- + There is insufficient research and evidence on client-centred approaches that keep jobseekers engaged and motivated



Contextualized Essential Skills

CONTEXTUALIZED ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- + E&T providers have identified a need for more short-term, customized training options to help low-skilled individuals access high-quality employment opportunities
- + Emerging evidence suggests customized training programs with wraparound supports improve outcomes for job seekers and adds value for employers



Demand-led Employment Strategies

DEMAND-LED EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

- + Employers require diverse pools of job seekers, yet play a limited role in the design and delivery of E&T training initiatives
- + Research shows demand-led models increase the number and retention of long-term employment placements



Integrated Mental Health Supports

INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

- + E&T providers have identified mental health supports as a crucial area of need for many jobseekers
- + Research has demonstrated that non-mental health providers can effectively use integrated practices to promote client well-being and employment outcomes.



Older Workers E&T Supports

 Ontario Centre for
Workforce Innovation

OLDER WORKERS E&T SUPPORTS

- + Research shows continued engagement of older workers contributes to many social and economic benefits
- + 2011 census data revealed that people aged 55 to 64 outnumbered those aged 15 to 24
- + Research also shows that countries with higher employment rates for older workers also have higher youth employment rates



Shared Apprenticeship Models

SHARED APPRENTICESHIP MODELS

- + Research shows these models are effective in improving completion rates and removing barriers for small and medium sized employers
- + These models have the potential to provide power solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing apprenticeship training



Youth Transitional Jobs

YOUTH TRANSITIONAL JOBS

- + E&T providers have identified the need for more flexible and intensive youth employment programs
- + There is insufficient research and evidence on the impact of specialized transitional jobs models for youth who experience multi-barriers to employment

Question and Answer Period

Stay connected with OCWI



Visit ocwi-coie.ca/portfolio

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