

Questions and Answers

Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy (RSTS)

1. What is the Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy (RSTS)?

The RSTS program has been created to help employers respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is an employer-driven, short term training program that provides 100 per cent reimbursement for eligible employers to train employees.

2. Why is the RSTS program needed?

- The training subsidy is an important tool to support employers to resume operations and prepare to adjust business models in order to safely re-open and comply with active Public Health Orders.
- Full training reimbursement ensures critical public services and allowable businesses do not face additional financial pressures while they adapt to changing business needs and/or enhanced health and safety requirements for re-opening.
- Enhanced training support will help financially strained employers to adjust to the impacts of the pandemic and align business activities with the phases of the *Re-Open Saskatchewan* plan.

3. What are the benefits?

- Training support through the RSTS program will ensure employers have access to training to maintain business activities while continuing to promote workplace safety and stimulate competitiveness without a financial burden;
- Employers select the trainee(s) and the training program;
- 100% reimbursement to eligible employers for approved training;
- Approved employers will receive 33% of the costs of training upon entering into a training agreement with the government. The remaining 67% will be paid upon completion of final reporting and verification of actual expenditures; and
- The maximum payment is up to \$10,000 for eligible employers of the program.

4. Why is funding limited to \$10,000 per eligible employer?

Funding is limited to \$10,000 to ensure the subsidy can be provided to as many employers as possible through the time-limited duration of the program.

5. What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible a Saskatchewan business or not-for-profit must:

- Be on the Government of Saskatchewan's list of "critical public services and allowable businesses" during the emergency period; or,
- Be eligible to resume operations in a confirmed phase of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan; and
- Ensure their application is received on or before December 31, 2020.

6. What are the RSTS Program parameters?

Trainees:

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident with a Social Insurance Number;
- May be either a new hire or an existing employee; and
- Temporary Foreign Workers are not eligible.

Training Costs:

- Tuition fees or fees charged by the training provider;
- Mandatory student fees;
- Textbooks, software and other required materials;
- Learning material fees; and
- Examination fees.

*Training taken prior to an approved Agreement is not eligible for funding.

Training:

Employers choose the training and mode of delivery that will meet their needs within the following requirements. Training must:

- Be delivered by a Saskatchewan based, third-party that is not affiliated with the employer;
- Be a minimum of 8 hours in length per trainee by the same training provider and completed within 4 months; and,
- Result in a credential (record of completion, certificate, grade, etc.).

7. What types of training are eligible?

- Employers are encouraged to pursue training that will support the viability of the business, such as new health and safety requirements or adopting innovative practices to help the business adapt to social distancing requirements.
- Training must be delivered by a Saskatchewan based training provider.

8. How soon can I apply? How soon can I expect to receive my payment?

Applications are actively being taken. The program opened to employers immediately following the program's announcement on June 18, 2020. **The deadline to apply has been extended to December 31, 2020.**

Applications will be approved on a first completed and eligible basis, pending available budget. Ministry staff will contact each employer who applies to communicate the decision on their application.

Payment will be provided upon submission of all final reporting documents from the employer supporting completion of the training. The service standard is to provide final payment within five (5) business days.

9. Who is responsible for administering the program?

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training, Skills Training Branch is responsible for the program. Ministry staff will answer questions, process applications, work with employers on approved contract activities and audit the program.

10. What are the Service Standards?

- Two (2) Business Days: In this time, ministry staff will contact each employer to confirm receipt of the application.
- Five (5) Business Days: Once a completed application has been received, ministry staff will evaluate and communicate a decision in this timeframe. Ministry staff will also prepare an Agreement for an approved application to be executed during this timeframe.
- Five (5) Business Days: A payment will be issued to the employer within this timeframe upon receipt of all complete final reporting and supporting documentation.

11. Where can I go for more information?

A program overview is available on the following Government of Saskatchewan website:
saskatchewan.ca/training-subsidy

For additional information:

Email cansaskjobgrant@gov.sk.ca

Saskatoon and Area call: (306) 964-1005

Regina and Area call: (306) 787-4677