



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance

SERVICE PROVIDERS TO MANAGE NEW EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

VICTORIA – GT Hiring Solutions (2005) Inc., the BC Society of Training for Health and Employment (THEO BC) and WCG International have been awarded contracts worth \$35 million to deliver services for employable income assistance clients as part of the new BC Employment Program.

The Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance plans to implement its new employment program on July 4, 2006. This program will help approximately 15,000 clients annually to find and keep employment through job referral and placement and individualized employability services and supports.

To ensure clients provincewide have the best access to employment supports and training, the program is being delivered through nine service delivery bundles that address not only geographic areas, but also specific categories such as English as a Second Language and Drug and Alcohol Addictions.

GT Hiring Solutions (2005) Inc. will be responsible for managing service delivery in south Vancouver Island and north Vancouver Island, as well as the delivery of services specifically tailored to the needs of immigrants – such as English as a Second Language – in Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.

The BC Society of Training for Health and Employment (THEO BC) will be responsible for managing specific services tailored to individuals facing mental health and drug and alcohol issues in Vancouver.

WCG International will be responsible for managing general service delivery in Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, the Prince George area, B.C.'s Interior, and the northwest region of British Columbia.

These successful contractors are responsible for selecting pre-qualified local service providers to deliver front-line services, management of information technology, performance management and reporting, and case management of clients. Communities throughout the province can expect to see local pre-qualified service providers participating in the delivery of services.

The proponents were selected after an extensive year-long procurement process. This included consultation with clients, service providers and ministry staff on existing employment programming and the publication of an outside consultant's evaluation of present programs. This initial phase culminated in the summer of 2005 with a Request for Information eliciting feedback on the design of the new program.

A Request for Qualifications followed in November 2005, with the final formal Request for Proposals tendered in February 2006.

The new BC Employment Program replaces two existing programs – the Job Placement Program and Training for Jobs. It will also include the employment components of the ministry's existing Community Assistance Program.

The \$7.5-million Community Assistance Program will remain a separate program, and focus specifically on assisting individuals to develop their basic life skills, enhance their quality of life and prepare them to participate more fully in their community. An open and fair procurement process for this program is currently underway.

The ministry's total investment in employment programs is approximately \$70 million this year, including employment programs for people expected to work, as well as specialized programs and supports for persons with disabilities and those who have faced violence and abuse.

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