



SKILLS FOR SUCCESS INITIATIVES SERVICE DELIVERY PILOTS 2023/24

CASE STUDY OVERVIEW

From 2022 to 2024, Ontario's Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program received federal funding to undertake projects in support of Canada's Skills for Success (SFS) framework.

Resource development and/or service delivery pilots were funded under five initiatives:

- **Supporting Underrepresented Groups;**
- **Supporting Apprenticeship Integration;**
- **Supporting Better Jobs Ontario Integration;**
- **Workplace Literacy;** and
- **Expanding and Enhancing Digital Delivery.**

Projects were designed in accordance with the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF).

The goals of SFS initiatives are:

- to support ongoing LBS program development objectives by building capacity across cultural streams and delivery sectors;
- to strengthen LBS employment and apprenticeship outcomes;
- to integrate LBS services into the broader workforce development system; and
- to enhance and expand blended and fully distance learning opportunities.



CASE STUDY OVERVIEW

PROGRAM: SAULT COLLEGE ACADEMIC UPGRADING

SECTOR: COLLEGE CULTURAL STREAM: ANGLOPHONE

INITIATIVE: BETTER JOBS ONTARIO

GOALS

The goal of the initiative was to improve alignment between LBS services and Better Jobs Ontario application processes/requirements. This included finding individuals who would benefit from Academic Upgrading to succeed in postsecondary (who may not have otherwise accessed it or known about it), providing soft/essential skills upgrading and providing additional support in individual Better Jobs Ontario applications while working closely with Service Providers.

LESSONS LEARNED

BJO applications are required to be submitted close to the training date, putting a timeline restriction on completion of the SFS modules. If the SFS modules are delivered too early to someone who is interested and eligible for BJO, the information may be dated and need to be revisited prior to BJO application submission.

ESEE assessments were an effective tool in determining any knowledge and skills gaps that may be barriers for

participants prior to them entering the postsecondary environment — allowing for any required academic upgrading (should time permit) to ensure success. Alternatively, ESEE can create intake bottlenecks for short-term, time-constrained programming. Employment Service Provider buy-in and referrals are critical in the successful outcome of the postsecondary goal path with BJO funding.

OUTCOMES

Strengthened relationships with Ontario Works and Employment Service Providers.

29% of participants in program moved forward with an approved Better Jobs Ontario application and started postsecondary.

7% moved on to Academic Upgrading.

21% continued to work with their Employment Service Provider for employment preparation and job search.

7% were employed full-time.

36% had "other" outcomes.

PARTICIPANT: **JODI**

SAULT COLLEGE SKILLS FOR SUCCESS PROGRAM PILOT

JODI was referred in from an Employment Service Provider for clarification of her career goals and additional assistance with her Better Jobs Ontario application. Better Jobs Ontario applications require a fair amount of research and information gathering which was supported through the Skills for Success program's modules while working in partnership with the Employment Service Consultant.

Jodi's goal was long-term, sustainable employment after returning to postsecondary. She wanted a career that would allow her to work in an industry that allowed her to pursue her passion of assisting people, rather than the multiple fast-food jobs she had been working.

By participating, she was hoping to gather everything needed for her Better Jobs Ontario application to receive funding to go back to College for a PSW program. Prior to applying for Better Jobs Ontario, and throughout the Skills for Success program, she persevered and overcame several personal and financial struggles. She has a strong ability to adapt to new situations and continues to work towards her personal goals with a positive, driven, mindset.

Jodi completed the Skills for Success - Better Jobs Ontario Support Program, gathering all the information needed and applied for funding. The Better Jobs Ontario application was approved, and **she started at Sault College in the PSW program** in January 2024.

JODI SAYS: "Overall my experience has been a positive one and helpful in going back to school. I am excited to finish school and start a job that I can sustain myself on instead of working several jobs at a time, sometimes up to 60 hours per week."