

WORK CENTRAL AB

Government Training Programs

Funding Support for Individuals Pursuing Training

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Government Training Programs for Individuals

Beyond employer-focused grants, several government programs directly support individuals pursuing training and retraining in Alberta. This guide covers the main options - always confirm current details directly through official program pages before applying, since eligibility and funding levels change.

1. Training for Work (Alberta)

- Alberta's Training for Work programs provide no-cost occupational training, short certificates, and employment supports for unemployed or under-employed adults, delivered through approved providers.
- Participants are generally referred through Alberta Works and connected with programs relevant to real regional labour shortages, commonly in construction, manufacturing, logistics, and community services.
- This is often the starting point for adults who need job-ready skills relatively quickly.

2. Foundational Learning Program

The Foundational Learning Program funds basic education upgrading and language education for adult Albertans who need these skills for further training or employment (see our Adult Learning guide for more detail).

3. Employer-Sponsored Training Routes

- Some programs allow employers to hire and train unemployed Albertans directly, combining real work experience with structured training - common in trades, logistics, and manufacturing.
- The Canada-Alberta Productivity Grant (CAPG), covered in more detail in our Wage Subsidies & Grants guide for employers, is applied for by the employer, not the individual worker, but can fund training relevant to your role if your employer is willing to apply.

4. Federal Support for Training Costs

Federal Programs to Know

Canada Training Credit - a refundable tax credit for eligible training fees, claimed when you file your tax return; eligibility and credit amounts accumulate over time, so check your current balance through the CRA.

EI While in Training - those receiving Employment Insurance may qualify for full-time training support if the training is referred or approved; rules differ for referred vs. non-referred programs, so confirm with Service Canada before enrolling.

Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) - delivered through local Indigenous organizations, supporting skills development and employment training for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit adults.

5. How to Navigate These Programs

- Start with an Alberta Works or Alberta Supports representative, who can help match your situation to the most relevant program.
- Apply before starting training wherever possible - many programs, particularly employer-linked ones, do not accept retroactive claims.
- Keep documentation of your employment status, training costs, and any referrals, since most programs require this for approval or reimbursement.
- Ask specifically about supports for your situation - programs differ for unemployed adults, underemployed workers, apprentices, newcomers, and Indigenous learners.

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Common Questions

Do I need to be unemployed to access these programs? Not always - some programs specifically target under-employed workers or those seeking to upgrade skills while working, though eligibility varies by program.

Can I combine multiple funding sources? Sometimes - check with each program directly, since stacking rules vary and some funding sources cannot be combined.

Where do I start if I'm not sure which program fits my situation? An Alberta Works or Alberta Supports representative can help assess your circumstances and point you toward the most relevant programs.

6. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Starting training before confirming funding approval - most programs will not reimburse or fund training retroactively.
- Assuming a program is free without confirming - some require partial cost-sharing depending on your specific eligibility category.
- Missing application windows - many programs operate on specific funding-year cycles or limited annual budgets.
- Not keeping documentation - receipts, referral letters, and enrollment confirmations are often required for approval or reimbursement.

Government Training Programs Checklist

- ✓ Connected with Alberta Works or Alberta Supports to identify relevant programs
- ✓ Checked eligibility for Training for Work or Foundational Learning Program
- ✓ Reviewed your Canada Training Credit balance through the CRA

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- ✓ Confirmed EI training rules if currently receiving benefits
 - ✓ Explored ISET programs if applicable to your background
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See our full Education & Training series - Micro-Credentials, Adult Learning, and Apprenticeship Programs - for more on funding your next step. Visit workcentralab.ca/resources.