**Enabling fund for Official Language Minority Communities (EF-OLMC) program**

Launched in 2005, the Enabling Fund for Official Language Minority Communities (EF-OLMC) Program is Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)’s flagship program to fulfill its obligations under the Official Languages Act (OLA). Its goal is to enhance the vitality of Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs) in Canada.

The EF-OLMC Program follows the "by and for" approach, which considers the needs and priorities of OLMCs in the design and delivery of initiatives. As a result, projects that receive funding under the Program are implemented by OLMC organizations for the benefit of individuals living in OLMCs, as well as their organizations and businesses.

This program is divided into two streams:

EF-OLMC Stream 1: Community Economic Development & Human Resources Development

Under stream 1, the EF-OLMC Program strengthens OLMCs’ capacity in the areas of community economic development and human resources development, and promotes partnerships:

* Community Economic Development activities create local economic opportunities and improve social conditions, such as youth entrepreneurship camps, supporting tourism projects and business creation, and strategic planning.
* Human Resources Development activities enhance individual and organizational effectiveness through training, mentoring, job fairs, and assisting employers/business community in identifying and meeting skill needs.
* Promoting Partnerships activities foster collaboration and attract investment, including conferences, networking events, and partnership agreements.

Funding is provided to 14 organizations across Canada – one in each province and territory, and one national umbrella organization representing the Francophone community. Stream 1 has an annual ongoing budget of $14.9M. Budget 2023 invested an additional $20.5 million (bringing the total budget to $95 million) over five years (2023–2028) in indexation funding to reflect the evolving economic situation.

Stream 1 results highlight the Program’s essential role in fostering inclusive economic growth, strengthening community resilience, and supporting the long-term development of OLMCs across Canada. For example:

* In 2024-2025, the funding recipients established and/or maintained 1,455 active partnerships with the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
* For every $1 invested by the Government of Canada in Stream 1 of the EF-OLMC program, funding recipients leveraged $1.90 from other sources. This represents a total of $33,580,489 leveraged from other sources in 2024-2025.
* In addition, 77,791 people, businesses, and organizations from OLMCs benefited from the activities and services funded by the Program.

EF-OLMC Stream 2: Employment Assistance Services

In 2023, the Government of Canada announced a new Employment Assistance Services (EAS) stream under the EF-OLMC Program, with an annual budget of $54M. The new stream funds OLMC organizations to provide tailored EAS to individuals living in OLMCs so that they can find, obtain, or maintain employment. The new EAS stream is one of the largest investments under the Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection-Promotion-Collaboration (“Pillar 3: Strong Measures in Support of Community Vitality”).

EAS includes four categories of activities:

* + Job search assistance (e.g. assisting individuals or groups with job searches, supporting résumé writing, and preparing clients for interviews).
  + Counseling and case management (e.g. managing an individual’s case file to track their progress in finding a job, developing supports that monitor individuals’ progress in implementing their action plan, and providing specialized assessments and professional diagnostic services that may affect a person’s ability to participate in training or to occupy specific jobs).
  + Unassisted services(e.g. providing access to career planning tools, labour market information, and employment opportunities that can be accessed independently by job seekers).
  + Other activities (e.g. providing job retention activities and job placement assistance, and providing mentorship, guidance and support to job seekers and entrepreneurs).

The EF-OLMC Program engaged with OLMC stakeholders on the design of the new stream, and with Provinces/Territories (PTs) at all stages—pre, during, and post-process—to ensure projects are integrated into the broader provincial or territorial skills and employment delivery system and are in alignment with labour market agreements. Engagement with PTs will continue throughout the life cycle of the projects.

The call for proposals for this new stream was completed during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and funded OLMC organizations began implementing their projects in 2025-2026.