**Self-Employment Services – Eligibility Checklist**

***Would you like to access Self-Employment Services offered through WorkBC?***

***First let’s see if you meet the eligibility requirements, then visit your local*** [***WorkBC Centre***](https://www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/WorkBC-Centres/Find-Your-WorkBC-Centre.aspx) ***to get started.***

1. You meet Employment Insurance eligibility Requirements if:
* You have you applied for or are currently in receipt of Employment Insurance

OR

* You have had an EI claim that ended in the past 60 months.

OR

1. You self-identify as having a permanent disability or mental impairment that restricts your abilities,
* And, you have had a Disability Related Employment Needs Assessment.

OR

* You are currently a recipient of PWD assistance as a person with a disability.

OR

* You are currently a recipient of PPMB assistance, as a person who has persistent multiple barriers.

AND You meet other eligibility conditions:

* You have exhausted a job search and are unable to obtain sustainable employment as determined between yourself and your Case Manager;
* You have an Action Plan from your Case Manager along with other referral documents that identifies Self Employment as necessary;
* You are proposing a concept for a **NEW** business that will not negatively impact local communities;
* You have an entrepreneurial aptitude as well as the attitude, skills, and sufficient product/service knowledge and experience related to your business concept to likely be able to become self-employed and independent;
* Have access to financing/equity to cover anticipated start-up and launch costs;
* Able to contribute a personal financial investment that is equal to a minimum of 25% of the total EI or BCEA benefits that you would be paid while participating in SE Services or 100% of the investment required to launch and operate the business if less than 25% of total benefits received. Personal investment is identified as the amount of equity available to contribute to the business;
* You have a business concept that is viable in the local labour market, acceptable and will not negatively impact the community;
* You lack the necessary entrepreneurial skills to launch the business concept;
* You function well and participate in an adult group learning environment and are open to feedback
* You exude enthusiasm and self-confidence, possess strong leadership and communication skills, and enjoy working independently;
* You have a computer and familiarity/working knowledge of MS Word and MS Excel.

If you are eligible and live in the Lower Mainland please visit one of the [**WorkBC Centres served by the YMCA Self Employment Program**](WorkBC%20Centres%20served%20by%20the%20YMCA%20Self%20Employment%20Program)**.**

**To apply for the program you must be referred by your Case Manager and attend a Mandatory Self Employment Orientation workshop.**

**Here’s what to expect:**

**Mandatory Self-Employment Orientation and Assessment Workshop**

* Information about what is involved in becoming successfully self-employed;
* Opportunities to understand and more carefully consider and assess your suitability and readiness and the potential viability of your business concept;
* Detailed information about SE Services and application requirements.

After the workshop, you will be interviewed and the Business Advisor assesses your suitability for SE Services and provides a written recommendation to the Case Manager regarding your suitability and readiness, strengths and any concerns regarding the business concept, as well as suggestions for improvement.

If the business concept is approved you can move to the **Application Process**.

When your completed business concept proposal and SE application is submitted for review a decision regarding acceptance into SE Services is made by a Review Committee.