

### **Background:**

Counties of Bruce (lead), Grey, Huron, and the City of Stratford were selected as the Employment Service System Manager (SSM) for the Stratford – Bruce Peninsula Economic Region by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skill Development (MLITSD) as part of Ontario's Employment Services Transformation in the Spring of 2022. The SSM is to build and implement a locally responsive employment services system that effectively meets the needs of a diverse range of job seekers and employers in the catchment area.

The SSM provided an update on the activities of the SSM in December 2022 (included as an attachment to this report). This report provides a brief information update on the activities of the SSM since December 2022.

### **Information Update:**

The SSM has been actively engaged in planning work to transition to the Integrated Employment Service Delivery (IESD) phase on April 1, 2023. The following key components of work have been undertaken over the past two months:

- **Completion of the Transition Phase Outcomes Report:** This report is a key reporting requirement to MLITSD that outlines the design of the employment services system in the catchment area and is essential to gain approval from the Ministry for the implementation of the new system. The Ministry has accepted the SSM's report, and the SSM received a \$100,000 performance-based funding payment for successful completion of this stage of work.
- **Performance Assessment of Service Providers:** The SSM provided each service provider with an overall performance and risk assessment for their organization and outlined areas for continuous improvement. The SSM met with each service provider to discuss and refine the findings, and to provide notional funding and target allocations for the 2023/24 year.
- **Expression of Interest:** The SSM conducted an expression of interest process with current service providers to determine which providers wished to continue their engagement with SSM for the 2023/24 year. Through this process, seven of eight providers have confirmed their desire to continue as employment service providers for 2023/24.



## Consortium Member Council Information Report

- **Request for Proposals:** The SSM launched a request for proposals process to onboard new service providers for the 2023/24 funding year. These providers will specialize in services to Indigenous persons, Francophone individuals, and other priority populations. This approach will increase the ability of the service provider network to serve the unique needs of individuals in our community.
- **Continued Co-Design:** The SSM has continued to engage with key stakeholders to co-design the system that will be implemented on April 1, 2023. This has included developing an integrated case management protocol with Social Assistance, and capacity building for the system through training and development.

Over the course of Winter 2023, the SSM will continue to co-design the detailed implementation approach with our stakeholders. To date, there has been strong engagement and support of the plan from our community stakeholders and service provider network.

