

Employment & Entrepreneurship


Developed from *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed* by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Stepping Up is a strategic framework from the **Ministry of Children and Youth Services** that strengthens the **Government of Ontario's** commitment to young people. **Stepping Up** consists of seven themes and 20 outcomes that help inform and align the work of service providers, community groups etc. with research and what youth themselves believe they need in order to succeed. **Employment & Entrepreneurship** is one of the framework's seven themes and has three associated outcomes.

Why Employment & Entrepreneurship?


Starting a new business or a rewarding job helps a young person build their sense of identity, connects them to new people and places and allows them to develop lifelong skills. As Ontario's economy, workforce and job market continue to change, we need to encourage young workers to lead in innovation and generate new ideas and perspectives.

What outcomes do we want to see for Ontario youth?




10

Ontario youth have opportunities for meaningful employment experiences.



11

Ontario youth have the skills and resources needed to develop a successful career or business.



12

Ontario youth are safe and supported at work.

Why is this important?

Ontario's young workforce is a key factor for success in today's global economy. Studies show that having a job contributes to a young person's sense of identity, connectedness and wellbeing. Employment is also an opportunity to connect with others and develop the skills needed to contribute to society.

Young workers and entrepreneurs contribute to our economy and keep Ontario prosperous. They often lead the way in innovation and creativity when they start new businesses, contribute new ideas and share new perspectives.

10/20 How can we help Ontario support youth employment?

We can help Ontario support youth employment by:

- **Helping youth transition to the labour market** by providing young people with work experience and hands on experience through school or part time jobs to develop employability and technical skills needed for the workforce.
- **Broadening job access for at-risk youth** by providing more employment programs that target newcomers, Aboriginal, visible minorities, high school dropouts, young males, youth with disabilities, and LGBTQ youth.

11 / 20 How can we help support Ontario's modern workforce?

We can help support Ontario's modern workforce by:

- **Preparing youth to have skills that match Ontario's labor market needs** by providing young workers with employable skills that reflect the current needs of the Ontario Labour Market.
- **Fostering entrepreneurial skills** by providing entrepreneurship programs that allow young people to apply their creativity, perseverance, self-confidence and energy.

12 / 20 How can we help create safe, supportive work environments for Ontario's young people?

We can help create safe and supportive work environments for Ontario's young people by:

- **Paying extra attention to the safety of young workers** by creating a safe place where young workers can share their concerns about work and by providing young workers with health and safety on the job training on how to be safe and avoid injuries in the workplace
- **Informing young people about their rights and responsibilities at work** by ensuring that young people are treated in a respectful and inclusive manner by creating a safe workplace environment where young people can share their concerns about work and learn skills on conflict resolution and negotiation.

Learn More

This factsheet is part of a series of factsheets focused on the Government of Ontario's **Stepping Up** framework. Check out the other factsheets in the series by clicking on the links below:


- **An Introduction to Stepping Up**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Strong, Supportive Friends and Families**
- **Education, Training and Apprenticeships**
- **Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership**
- **Diversity, Social Inclusion and Safety**
- **Coordinated and Youth-Friendly Communities**


How can a youth program measure these outcomes?


YouthREX has curated measures directly related to the theme of **Employment & Entrepreneurship**. Each one is youth-friendly and open access, making it easy to use when it comes to evaluating youth programs!

You can find YouthREX's measures [here](#).

Each measure includes the following information:

 An Overview


 Subscales


 Stepping Up Theme(s) & Outcome(s)


 Target Populations

 Length & How it is Measured

 Developers

 Good to Know

 Psychometrics

 Learn More

For more resources related to Stepping Up, don't forget to visit the eXchange!

The **eXchange** is YouthREX's online learning community. You can visit it anytime and find hundreds of intentionally curated and created resources focused on youth work, all in one place.