

Employment Service Financials Open Dataset: Frequently Asked Questions for Service Providers

Note: These frequently asked questions (FAQ) accompanies the [memo to service providers](#).

Q: What is being prepared?

A: The Employment and Training Division's Open Data team is preparing a dataset containing the financial allocations and expenditures of all Employment Service (ES) service providers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Q: Who is the dataset being released to?

A: A draft of the dataset is being released to service providers on the [Employment Ontario \(EO\) Service Provider Open Data Portal](#) (SP Portal) for their comment and feedback. After service providers comments have been incorporated in revisions to the dataset, the dataset will be approved by the ministry and released to the public on the government-wide [Data Catalogue](#) and the [EO Geo Hub](#).

Q: When will the dataset be released to service providers?

A: The dataset and accompanying documentation will be available on the SP Portal on May 12, 2017.

Q: What documents will accompany the dataset?

A: The dataset will be accompanied by two documents: a technical dictionary—that explains every variable in the dataset; and a contextual document—that describes the ES program and the funding model used by the ministry to allocate funds across the ES service provider network. These documents will be widely available when the dataset is released publicly.

Q: How can I access the EO Service Provider Portal?

A: Service providers will need to register to use the EO Service Provider Portal. Service providers can [register here](#), create a username, and register using their service provider name and service delivery site ID. After registration has been approved, an email will be sent from eo.analytics@ontario.ca to create a password. Instructions on using the portal are available on the website after registration. If assistance is needed in registering for the EO Service Provider Portal, please email eo.analytics@ontario.ca or Robert Coleman at robert.coleman@ontario.ca. For further information on the SP Portal, please read [the March 31 ADM memo](#).

Q: How can I provide feedback?

A: Service providers can post comments on the EO Service Provider Open Data Portal itself, or send comments by email to either the Open Data Team at eo.analytics@ontario.ca, or Wesley Ferris at wesley.ferris@ontario.ca. Service providers are asked submit their feedback by May 26, 2017.

Q: Why is the ministry releasing this data now?

A: Ontario's Open Government initiative requires all OPS ministries to make all data "open by default," unless the data cannot be released for privacy, legal, contractual, or commercially-sensitive reasons. The ES Financials data does not fall under these exemptions and, therefore, must be released as Open Data. The Employment and Training Division (ETD) is also committed to releasing data that is deemed 'high-value,' as determined by the number of requests for this data made by stakeholders, service providers, and through the Freedom of Information (FOI) process; and the extent to which data can enhance transparency and improve program performance. On this basis, ES Financials have been found to be 'high-value,' and thus the release of this data has been prioritized.

Q: Will other service providers be able to see details on our agreement with the ministry?

A: All service providers registered to use the Open Data Portal will be able to view all of the data that is included in the dataset. If you have any questions about the data released for your organization, and would like to provide feedback, please use the Open Data Portal or contact either the Open Data Team at eo.analytics@ontario.ca or Wesley Ferris at wesley.ferris@ontario.ca.

Q: Why does another service provider receive more ES funding than I do?

A: The amount of ES funding that every service provider receives is determined by the ES funding model, and is based on the assisted services client target for each service delivery site. The Contextual Documentation that accompanies the dataset provides a full description of the ES funding model, which explains why each service provider would receive the amount of funding that they do.

Q: Are the agreement/contract details of an ES service provider prevented from disclosure under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)?

A: In most cases, the details of an agreement between an ES service provider and the ministry are generally released under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). There may be, however, cases where the agreements contain specified information, such as individual salaries, which would be considered personal identifiable information. In those cases, the specified information would be withheld under the Personal Privacy Exemption of FIPPA. After consultations with legal and privacy staff in the ministry, it has been determined that the data in the ES Financials dataset can be released publically.

Q: How was the data checked and verified?

A: Corporate and regional financial staff and subject matter experts have been consulted on the accuracy of the data, and all ETD staff have had the opportunity to provide feedback on the dataset and supporting documentation.

Q: The data is not correct for our organization. Can we request a change?

A: If you have comments or see misrepresentation of data, please use the EO Service Provider Open Data Portal to provide feedback, or contact either the Open Data Team at eo.analytics@ontario.ca or Wesley Ferris at wesley.ferris@ontario.ca.

Q: Why does the data dictionary specify the Employment Ontario (EO) program and fiscal year when data for only one program and one fiscal year is being released?

A: The dataset being released is limited to the ES Financial Allocation and Expenditures for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. However, the Open Data team plans to release financial data for other programs and for other fiscal years in the future.