

Employment Resources for People with Disabilities

This handout gathers free, established employment-support services for people with disabilities in the Greater Vancouver region. Most programs listed are funded through the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia and have no cost to eligible individuals. Eligibility and program availability can change, so confirming current details directly with each organization is recommended before referring a client.

BCIT Supports

Accessibility Services

<https://www.bcit.ca/accessibility/>

We support all BCIT students with disabilities and medical conditions, permanent or temporary, by addressing the barriers that limit their academic success.

Government Benefits & Broader Supports

Province of BC – Services for People with Disabilities

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities>

Central provincial portal covering Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation, disability assistance, health supports, and education supports alongside employment programs.

Vancouver Public Library – Employment Support Directory

<https://www.vpl.ca/guide/career-and-job-search/getting-help>

A curated, regularly updated directory of Vancouver-area employment programs, including several targeted specifically at job seekers with disabilities and other employment barriers.

Provincial Employment Services (WorkBC Network)

WorkBC – Services for People with Disabilities

<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/resources/people-disabilities>

The provincial hub for employment supports for people with disabilities, including job search tools, the Work-Able internship program for recent graduates, wage subsidies, and links to local WorkBC Centres across Greater Vancouver.

WorkBC Assistive Technology Services (WorkBC ATS)

<https://www.workbc-ats.ca/>

Provides funded assistive technology and workplace accommodations (ergonomic equipment, adaptive software, hearing devices, mobility aids) for people with a disability-related work barrier. Operated by Neil Squire Society; free for eligible clients and includes a Burnaby site serving the Lower Mainland.

Community Futures British Columbia – Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program

<https://www.communityfutures.ca/>

Coordinates self-employment training and support for entrepreneurs with disabilities across the province, including the Greater Vancouver region.

Vocational & Wage-Subsidy Programs

BC Centre for Ability – Opportunities Fund

<https://bc-cfa.org/programs/vocational-services/>

Offers the Opportunities Fund (skills training, paid work experience, and wage subsidies for individuals; inclusive hiring support and partial wage subsidies for employers) and Coast Capital THRIVE for young adults aged 19–29 with diverse abilities.

Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW)

<https://www.ccrw.org/>

National organization delivering job-search skills training, mentorship, and employer connections specifically for job seekers with disabilities, with services accessible in the Lower Mainland.

Ready, Willing and Able

<https://readywillingable.ca/>

A national initiative connecting employers with job seekers who have a developmental disability or are autistic, aimed at increasing workforce participation.

Autism, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities

Development Disabilities Association

<https://www.develop.bc.ca>

DDA is a community living agency that provides over 50 community-based programs and services to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

posAbilities

<https://www.posabilities.ca/>

Metro Vancouver organization supporting adults with developmental disabilities through employment programs, community inclusion, and behaviour consultation services.

Community Living BC (CLBC) – Employment Support

<https://www.communitylivingbc.ca/what-support-is-available/supports-to-participate-in-your-community/employment-support/>

For CLBC-eligible adults with developmental disabilities, facilitators help build an employment plan and connect clients to a CLBC-funded service provider or WorkBC.

Kinsight

<https://www.kinsight.org/>

Tri-Cities/Lower Mainland based organization offering employment services alongside family support and residential options for people with diverse abilities.

Mental Health & Substance-Use Related Employment Barriers

Coast Mental Health Association

<https://bc.cmha.ca>

The Canadian Mental Health Association is a Canadian non-profit mental health organization that focuses on resources, programs and advocacy.

Coast Mental Health – Supported Employment

<https://coastmentalhealth.com/>

Vancouver-based organization providing vocational rehabilitation and supported employment services for adults living with mental illness.

Lime Connect

<https://limeconnect.com>

Lime Connect is the largest network of high-achieving students and professionals (including veterans) with visible and non-visible disabilities.

Foundry BC

<https://foundrybc.ca>

Foundry offers free and confidential mental health and wellness services for youth ages 12-24 in British Columbia and their families. No referrals required.

Sensory & Physical Disabilities

Neil Squire Society

<https://www.neilsquire.ca/>

Delivers assistive technology, digital skills training, and employment programs for people with physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities; also operates WorkBC ATS for the region.

BC Paraplegic Association (Spinal Cord Injury BC)

<https://sci-bc.ca/>

Offers peer support, rehabilitation counselling, and employment services for people with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities across BC.

Deaf, Deafened, and Hard of Hearing Employment Counselling

<https://www.wavefrontc4t.ca/>

Employment counsellors fluent in ASL and English provide individualized job-search planning for job seekers and employers, with services in Vancouver and Port Coquitlam.