

Employment and Training Division

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**MEMORANDUM TO:**

Employment Ontario Partners

**DATE:**

December 10, 2019

**SUBJECT:**

Open call for proposals for RapidSkills

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Dear Employment Ontario partners,

We are pleased to announce the launch of the micro-credential pilot, RapidSkills, a new Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) initiative. The ministry is seeking project proposals from a broad range of workforce development partners.

**Background**

Earlier this year, the government announced its plan for the auto sector – [Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector](#). The plan sets out a 10-year vision for how industry, the research and education sector, and all three levels of government can work together to strengthen the auto sector's competitiveness. This is part of the government's commitment to support workers in a changing economy and to help employers to build the workforce they need to grow their businesses.

**Launching a micro-credential pilot**

A key pillar of this work is harnessing and developing talent. Under the talent pillar of the Driving Prosperity Plan, MLTSD is launching a call for proposals to support the development of micro-credentials for the auto and advanced manufacturing industries and their workers. There is an interest in proposals that focus on:

- Laid-off, at-risk, or underutilized auto or advanced manufacturing workers transitioning to other roles or sectors within the auto or advanced manufacturing industries;
- Laid-off, at-risk, or underutilized workers outside of the auto and advanced manufacturing industries transitioning to (in-demand) roles or sectors within the auto or advanced manufacturing industries; and

- Laid-off, at-risk, or underutilized auto or advanced manufacturing workers transitioning to another industry.

Today, you will find full details about the call for proposals for RapidSkills on the Transfer Payment Ontario platform. Pilot funding will support the development and delivery of micro-credential training programs. Financial support will also be provided for participants in the form of tuition and training-related supports.

### **What is a micro-credential?**

A micro-credential is short-duration, industry-sensitive training that results in a participant gaining a defined set of in-demand skills and knowledge. The aim of the pilot is to test the ability of micro-credential training to support talent development within auto and advanced manufacturing sectors and to help laid-off, at risk, or other underutilized (e.g., unemployed and underemployed) workers get back to work quickly or gain new skills to stay resilient in the labour market.

### **How to apply**

Proposals may be submitted by the following types of organizations:

- Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology
- Employers, industry associations, unions, and workforce development partners
- First Nations governments
- Indigenous Institutes
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Ontario publicly assisted universities
- Ontario school boards
- Private career colleges

You can find instructions on how to apply to the open call for proposals through the [Transfer Payment Ontario platform](#). You will find information about available funding, eligibility, scope of the pilot and the process for submitting a proposal.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is **11:59 a.m. on January 31, 2020.**

### **How can you learn more?**

If you have any questions, please contact us at [rapidskills@ontario.ca](mailto:rapidskills@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your ongoing engagement and commitment to ensuring the people of Ontario have the skills they need to succeed today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

David Carter-Whitney  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division

(Original signed by)

Erin McGinn  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Workforce Policy and Innovation Division