

## **Memorandum**

**To:** Employment Ontario Partners

**From:** **Jody Young**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division  
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills  
Development

**Date:** **September 29, 2022**

**Subject:** **Skills Development Fund (Round 3)**

---

Dear Employment Ontario delivery partners,

I hope all is well with you and your families. I am writing to share news about the launch of the third round of the Skills Development Fund.

As you know, the pandemic created many challenges for employers, workers, and the broader economy. The Skills Development Fund is designed to help the economy recover by using market-driven solutions to unlock the economic potential of the skilled trades and broader workforce. Round 3 of the Skills Development Fund provides some added flexibility to support longer-term, innovative, market-driven projects with a wide range of approaches and solutions that will assist the province's economic recovery.

The ministry is interested in a broad range of projects. Proposals should demonstrate how they will support one or more of the following objectives:

- Help develop a resilient workforce by supporting:
  - access to the labour market, and

- retention and capacity-building for employers.
- Empower workers and job seekers who face higher barriers of entry and enhance pathways into meaningful and gainful employment.
- Encourage partnerships across the economy and support new innovative training solutions and improve the capacity of communities to respond to shocks to labour market conditions in in-demand, emerging and essential sectors.

**Round 3 of the Skills Development Fund now has the following features:**

1. The option of multi-year funding to eligible projects: This approach will help the program support a wider range of innovative approaches to economic recovery.
2. Special consideration to project proposals that support youth at risk, justice involved clients, women traditionally underrepresented in the skilled trades, Indigenous peoples, racialized groups, people with disabilities, newcomers and visitors under the Emergency Travel Measures (i.e., Ukrainians).

The ministry is exploring options for including capital funding in a subsequent funding stream. No decisions have been made at this time. More information will be made available in the coming months.

**How to Apply**

Beginning September 29, 2022, organizations can apply for funding. Applications will be accepted for ministry review on a continuous basis until January 31, 2023, or until funding has been fully committed. Projects will be prioritized based on the strength of their application. Applicants will be required to adequately demonstrate estimated costs and how they align with project objectives and focus areas. Please be aware that funds are limited and therefore applicants are encouraged to submit their completed applications early.

Interested organizations can apply through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#) (TPON), the Province of Ontario's online application system for grant funding. Applicants are required to first register with TPON to access the application form. Additional information on registering and

accessing TPON is available on [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca). Prospective applicants can also find more information, including detailed eligibility criteria and target sectors and occupations in the application guide, available on the [Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway](#).

Given the broad scope of the Skills Development Fund, organizations currently pursuing funding for new or existing projects through other Employment Ontario programming are encouraged to check whether their projects could be funded through the Skills Development Fund and apply under this process. If you have further questions after reviewing program materials online, please contact [SkillsDevelopmentFund@ontario.ca](mailto:SkillsDevelopmentFund@ontario.ca) or your local ministry office.

Please share this information with organizations in your communities that may be interested in applying. Thank you for your support in helping to promote awareness of this program.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Jody Young  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division  
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development