

Q's and A's Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund (AEF)

1) What is the purpose of the Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund?

The Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund provides funding so that Approved Training Delivery Agents delivering apprenticeship training programs can acquire up-to-date equipment, update facilities, increase training capacity and provide training that meets industry needs.

2) Who can access the Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund?

The fund is specifically for Approved Training Delivery Agents (TDA), both college and non-college organizations. A copy of the 2011-12 AEF Guidelines and Requirements was sent to identified contacts for all approved TDAs.

3) Can non-college organization that train apprentices receive Apprenticeship Enhancement Funds?

Yes, if they are an MTCU approved TDA and meet the criteria of the existing base funding formula.

4) How much money does each college receive from the Fund?

This year, \$14 million is available for funding a formula-based allocation. No competitive projects will be funded.

All approved TDAs providing apprenticeship training received a fixed base of \$20,000 plus an allocation based on their apprenticeship training activity level, for a total of \$ 14 million (\$12 M to colleges and a one time amount of \$2M for non-college TDAs)

5) How much money does each approved non-college TDA receive from the Fund?

The Ministry recognizes the need to support non-college TDAs, and hopes to be able to announce additional funding in the fall.

6) Why is the competitive component of the program not been offered this year?

Proceeding with the non-competitive base allocation funding model will allow the Ministry to announce and release funding immediately, as well as allow TDAs to proceed with purchases that may benefit September apprenticeship intakes.

7) Why has the total funding for AEF been reduced?

Ontario is on the road to economic recovery but continues to face short-term challenges brought on by the economic downturn. MTCU has had to make some difficult funding choices this year and to develop options and approaches to ensure that apprenticeship and the Employment Ontario programs and services are sustainable over the long term and will continue to be available. Due to budget restrictions, funding for some of the MTCU's programs has been reduced for this year.

8) Why is funding being limited to only approved TDAs, when there are other training agencies that have been previously supported for capital projects through OSTEP?

MTCU is prioritizing funding allocations to support the programs and service that will offer the greatest benefits to Ontarians. To ensure that Ontario has the skilled workers it needs to succeed in tomorrow's economy. MTCU is focusing available resources on increasing the number of skilled workers. Therefore, the Ministry is providing funding for approved TDAs that provide apprenticeship training.

9) When was the last allocation of funding for AEF?

\$40M was committed in 2008-09. \$20M or 50% through AEF base allocation, and 50% through a single competitive Call for Proposals process in July 2008. With the base allocation each college was awarded funds based on the average seat purchase funding for each college over the last three years. The formula reflects the hours of training provided and supports all delivery models.

As a result of the competitive Call for Proposals process, 40 proposals were submitted and 25 projects were approved for 23 colleges. All projects were completed March 31, 2010.

10) What can TDA's use the funds for?

- Funds are being provided to ensure that program capacity is sufficient, and to allow for the modernization of hands-on training equipment and facilities in TDA's so that the delivery of in-school, trade-related training reflects industry standards. Replacement of existing equipment to meet industry standards and support enrolment growth, and the purchase of new equipment to support the growth of new apprenticeship trades, are two examples of how the TDA's can use the funds.
- Ontario is reviewing its apprenticeship programs to ensure that the technical work and processes that the trade/occupation performs has been carefully reviewed to include requirements for emerging "green" technologies,

managing surplus and scrap materials, conserving building materials and energy, and preventing spills or escape of toxic or hazardous gases and waste. As apprenticeable trades and occupations are more mindful of the need for environmental sustainability, they are adopting materials tools and procedures that offer environmental harm reductions.

TDA's are encouraged to direct the funding towards improvements that support training in the green energy sector and high demand trades;

11) What is the definition of training in the green energy sector?

Training that deals with information, technologies or materials, which help reduce society's impacts or contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality.

12) What do you mean by high demand trades?

Trades with projected skills shortages or trades for which projected demand exceeds projected supply.

13) How are the proposals evaluated?

Each base funding template will be reviewed for completeness.

14) Will TDAs generally receive what they were asking for?

Not necessarily. Base funding templates will be reviewed for completeness.

15) How will giving (all TDAs) money result in a better-skilled workforce?

By updating their equipment and facilities, TDA's can enhance their ability to deliver relevant, high-quality training in support of Ontario's workplace-based apprenticeship programs, and ensure that TDA's trained apprentices are provided with the skills necessary to meet the evolving needs of the workplace and its advancing technology.

16) Why is it important to fund skills training?

An adequate supply of skilled workers is vital to Ontario's economic growth and competitiveness. An investment in skills training will ensure a modern, flexible, and responsive system of training that will support Ontario's economic competitiveness in a fast-changing global economy.

17) How will Ontario benefit from the Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund?

This investment will improve the quality and relevance of apprenticeship training in TDA's, and assist the government in meeting its commitment to increase the number of entrants to the apprenticeship system. A modern, flexible, and responsive training system with increased training opportunities will benefit the workplace, economy, and society of Ontario.

18) Are "sustainment" type expenditures eligible for AEF funding?

AEF costs eligible for consideration include:

- alterations and renovations to existing facilities, including mobile apprenticeship training units used for hands-on apprenticeship training purposes to improve the condition and efficiency of apprenticeship instruction;
- replacement of existing equipment to meet industry standards and support growth in apprenticeship enrolment and completions;
- purchase of new equipment to support training capacity growth;
- purchase of new equipment resulting in program delivery efficiencies, i.e., affecting more than one training program;
- improvements that support training in the green energy sector and high demand trades;
- improvements to remove accessibility barriers to persons with disabilities;
- projects which can be completed on or before March 31, 2012.

19) What are the allocation amounts?

Each approved TDA will receive \$20,000, as well as a portion of funding which is calculated based on seat purchase funding averaged over the previous three fiscal years. This formula reflects the hours of apprenticeship training provided by approved TDA and includes all delivery models.

20) As most construction at colleges is scheduled over the summer, is there a provision for accommodating projects that require a construction component which may not be completed before the fiscal year end of March 31, 2012?

There are no provisions for accommodating projects that require a construction. All activities must be completed on or before March 31, 2012

21) Are costs associated to removing accessibility barriers to persons with learning disabilities eligible? If so are the following examples eligible?

Yes, improvements to remove accessibility barriers to persons with disabilities is an eligible project for consideration.

22) May we apply AEF funds to trades that we are in the process of making a TDA application for (it has not yet been sent through to the Ministry)? Failing that, should we become an approved TDA in a trade by March 31, 2012 may we apply for approval to shift AEF funds to a newly approved TDA status if it makes sense to do so?

No, applicant must be an approved Training Delivery Agent, for the trade(s) and levels for which they are requesting funding. All expenditures are approved by the ministry through the proposal review and approval process. The disposition or reallocation of AEF funds to unapproved projects/purchases is not permitted. The use of AEF funds to support unapproved expenditures may result in the cancellation of the proposal and recovery of funds.

23) Would renovations to an existing lab to turn it into an e-lab be eligible (by e-lab I mean installing a projector, computer or other electronic devices to facilitate new ways of delivering curriculum)?

Renovations to existing facilities used for hands-on apprenticeship training purposes to improve the condition and efficiency of apprenticeship instruction or the purchase of new equipment to support training capacity growth are eligible for consideration.

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24) When will the funds be released as the quotes are only good for 30 days and some are sale prices going on right now?

70% of the base allocation will be transferred upon approval of the base allocation funding report, with another 20% at the approval of the interim report and the balance paid upon approval of the final report and final audited statement.

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25) Do you wish the equipment quotations to be attached to the base funding report at time of submission?

Equipment quotations are not a requirement at the time of submissions. Organizations must submit a The Base Funding Report which will inform the ministry how the organization will use the base allocation.

Base allocations will be approved upon receipt of the proposed projects. Confirmation of approved projects will be outlined in contract agreement.