

Ministry of Labour, Immigration,
Training and Skills Development

Program Delivery Support
Branch

33 Bloor St E., 2nd Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2S3

Ministère du Travail, de l'Immigration,
de la Formation et du Développement des
compétences

Direction du soutien à la
prestation des programmes

33, rue Bloor Est., 2^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2S3



Memorandum

To: Ontario Bridge Training Program (OBTP) and Ontario Bridging Participant Assistance Program (OBPAP) Service Providers

From: Annette Huton
Director, Program Delivery Support Branch, Employment and Training Division
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Date: August 10, 2023

Subject: Ontario Bridge Training Program (OBTP) and Ontario Bridging Participant Assistance Program (OBPAP) 2023-24 Additional In-Year Funding

Objective

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise OBTP and OBPAP service providers of the additional in-year funding available for 2023-24.

What is happening?

The [2023 Ontario Budget](#) announced a funding increase of \$3 million in 2023-24 to expand the Ontario Bridge Training Program to help internationally trained immigrants find employment in their fields and access training and supports to achieve licence or certificate.

Service providers with a current OBTP and OBPAP transfer payment agreement are invited to apply for additional funding to expand the program for the current fiscal year. The additional funding must be spent before March 31, 2024. This additional in-year funding is strictly for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. There is no approved OBTP budget increase for future years.

The ministry is interested in supporting proposals from service providers that can demonstrate:

- Capacity and demand to scale Bridge Training projects from October 2023 to March 2024;
- Effective performance (e.g., meeting targets and outcomes);
- Unmet client demand relative to current funding levels (i.e., that limit the number of clients that can be served);
- Unmet client financial need due to financial barriers that could be addressed by expanding access to bursary assistance (i.e., for projects eligible for the Ontario Bridging Participant Assistance Program);
- Focus on priority sectors such as health care and skilled trades, and sectors with high demand from skilled newcomers such as IT, financial services, etc.; and
- Responsiveness to evolving immigrant needs (e.g., Canadian-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travels holders and refugee claimants).

Who is affected?

Service providers with 2021-2024 OBTP and 2023-2024 OBPAP transfer payment agreements (TPA) are invited to apply. Note that the former OBTP agreement holders that continue to run an approved bridge training program and have a 2023-24 OBPAP TPA are **not** eligible for the additional in-year funding. This time limited funding is targeted to support the expansion of current 2021-2024 Ontario Bridge Training projects.

What should be done now?

The application form will be made available through a ministry representative on August 11, 2023. Service providers are encouraged to complete and submit the application form by August 28, 2023.

What are the next steps?

The ministry will review submitted application forms to determine activity and funding commitments for the in-year funding allocation period. An amended contract will be made available, to successful applicants, in October 2023, for eligible OBTP and OBPAP service providers. Additional funding is not guaranteed for all projects.

Background

Budget 2023 announced an increase of \$3 million for 2023-24 fiscal year to enhance foreign qualification recognition supports by expanding OBTP to help internationally trained immigrants

find employment in their fields and access training and supports to achieve licensure in regulated occupations.

Contact Information

For further clarification, please contact your Ministry representative.

Sincerely,

Annette Huton

Director

Program Delivery Support Branch