

Memorandum

To: Employment Ontario Partners

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

Date: **August 25, 2023**

Subject: **2023-2024 Skills Development Fund Training Stream**

Dear Employment Ontario delivery partners,

I'm pleased to inform you that our ministry is now accepting applications for another funding round of our Skills Development Fund Training Stream. Since its launch in 2020, the training stream of the Skills Development Fund has helped the economy recover by using market-driven solutions to unlock the economic potential of the skilled trades and broader workforce. The program enables project-based solutions that offer partnership-driven approaches to stimulate growth in emerging and growth sectors of Ontario's economy.

Program objectives and focus areas remain unchanged from previous funding rounds. The ministry is still 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.

Please note that on June 30, 2023, the ministry launched the Skills Development Fund Capital Stream (also referred to as the “Bricks and Mortar Stream”) to help build and upgrade new and existing training facilities. Applications for the capital stream are being accepted until September 25, 2023. More information is available on [Ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca).

How to Apply

Beginning August 25, 2023, organizations can apply for the Skills Development Fund Training Stream. Applications will be accepted for ministry review on a continuous basis until November 17, 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. As funds are limited, applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Interested organizations should start by registering on [Transfer Payment Ontario \(TPON\)](https://tpon.ontario.ca), Ontario’s online application system for grant funding. Registered organizations will then be able to access the ministry’s Service Provider Connect (SP-Connect) platform, from where they can complete and submit an application.

Prospective applicants can also find more information, including detailed eligibility criteria and target sectors and occupations in the program guide, available on the [Employment Ontario Partners’ Gateway](https://employmentontario.ca/partners/gateway). Additional information is also available on [Ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca).

Given the broad scope of the Skills Development Fund Training Stream, 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 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

Ken Nakahara
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development