**MEMBER BULLETIN**

November 10, 2022

**Phase 3 of Provincial Skills Development Funding Now Open**

The provincial government has officially launched the third round of the Skills Development Fund. This Fund is designed to help use market-driven solutions to unlock the economic potential of the skilled trades and broader workforce. Phase 3 funding provides some 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.

Organizations seeking funding should develop a proposal that demonstrates how they will support one or more of the following objectives:

1. Help develop a resilient workforce by supporting: a) access to the labour market, and b) retention and capacity-building for employers.
2. Empower workers and job seekers who face higher barriers of entry and enhance pathways into meaningful and gainful employment.
3. 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**:

* 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.
* 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).

**How to Apply**

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](https://www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/gr/tpcr/#/externalLogin) (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.

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](https://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/sdf.html).

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 or your local ministry office.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven (905-629-7766 or steven.crombie@oswca.org).