

December 13, 2017

Dear Employment Ontario Service Provider,

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Skills Catalyst Fund, a new Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development initiative that begins accepting proposals from stakeholders today.

This three-year, \$9 million initiative will provide one-time funding to help organizations launch innovative projects that better align education, skills training and employment services with the real needs of employers and our economy.

Ontario's skilled workforce has always been its strength, but disruptive technology, globalization and shifting demographics are rapidly changing the mix of available jobs in our labour market and the skills people need to succeed in them. This new fund is designed to support new partnerships that build stronger links between learning and the economy, and make sure the most successful ideas are shared, promoted and scaled up.

Therefore, all proposals to the Fund must demonstrate that they build or enhance partnerships, while responding to at least one of the following four workforce development themes:

- Developing skills and competencies;
- Experiential learning for all learners;
- Promoting multiple career pathways; and
- Investment in employer-led training.

More details on these themes and potential projects are provided in the Fund's application materials. By supporting projects in these areas, we hope to build Ontario's economic advantage by ensuring successful talent and skills partnerships are encouraged, shared, modeled and scaled up.

How to apply and get more information

The Ministry is now accepting proposals to the Fund for financial support of up to \$500,000 per proposal to support eligible projects planned for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 fiscal years (i.e., ending by March 31, 2019). However, should applicants request funding for 2017-18 activities only, project expenditures would have to be made before March 31, 2018.

Applicants are invited to apply through Grants Ontario, a centralized online resource for Ontario government grants.

Information and application materials for the Fund are now available on Grants Ontario at: <http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantOpportunities/PRDR017888.html>.

Should you wish to apply, your organization will need to register online as a Grants Ontario user at: <http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/TransferPaymentCommonRegistration/HowtoRegister/index.htm>.

The deadline to submit applications is **January 26, 2018, 4:00 PM**. Successful projects will be announced early in the 2018 calendar year. If you have further questions after reviewing program materials online, please contact skillscatalystfund@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued interest and support for workforce development in Ontario.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

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