

Funding and Support Programs for Business

Prepared by Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic Development at SDG Counties. For support with your business contact tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca or call T. 613-932-1515 ext 1227.

Provincial

Ontario Covid-19 Small Business Relief Grant

Eligible businesses subject to closures as a result of the province's move to the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen can apply to receive a grant of \$10,000.

To receive the grant, a small business must:

- be required to close due to public health orders that took effect 12:01 a.m. on January 5, 2022
- have fewer than 100 employees

Eligible businesses that previously qualified for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant will be pre-screened to verify eligibility and will not need to apply for the new program.

Newly established and newly eligible small businesses will need to apply once the application portal opens in the coming weeks. Small businesses that qualify can expect to receive their payment in the coming weeks.

More Info:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/businesses-get-help-covid-19-costs#section-0>

Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program

The new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program supports businesses that are most impacted by public health measures in response to the Omicron variant.

Eligible businesses that are required to close or reduce capacity will receive rebate payments for a portion of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these measures. Eligible businesses required to reduce capacity to 50 per cent, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50 per cent of their costs, while businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as

restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs. Intake opens January 18, 2022.

More Info:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/businesses-get-help-covid-19-costs#section-1>

Improving cash flows for Ontario businesses

The Ontario government is providing additional support to help improve cash flows for Ontario businesses by providing a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes. This will:

- support businesses in the immediate term while capacity restrictions are in place
- provide the flexibility Ontario businesses will need for long-term planning

The six-month period will begin on January 1, 2022 and end on July 1, 2022.

More Info:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/businesses-get-help-covid-19-costs#section-2>

The Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Competitiveness (AMIC) Stream

A new stream of the [Regional Development Program](#) (RDP). The two-year, \$40 million program will support advanced manufacturing businesses to invest in the equipment, advanced technologies and skilled workforce needed to improve competitiveness and growth. As Ontario continues to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, AMIC will help to create and retain good jobs and address the need to restore the essential supply chains that will support economic recovery across the province. Beginning today, eligible businesses can apply for the new program.

Eligibility requirements include:

- minimum of 10 employees
- three or more years of financial statements, and
- minimum of \$500,000 in eligible project costs.

The first round of applications will be open until February 10, 2022. It is open to the entire province.

More Info:

https://www.ontario.ca/page/regional-development-program-advanced-manufacturing-and-innovation-competitiveness-stream?utm_source=newsroom&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=%2Fen%2Frelease%2F1001429%2Ffontario-launches-program-to-support-advanced-manufacturers-across-province&utm_term=ops

Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF)

The Eastern Ontario Development Fund provides support (loans and grants) for projects and investments to businesses, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations for economic development in eastern Ontario.

The types of support available include: funding support, complementary services and support

The fund supports projects that:

- create jobs and build talent
- attract and encourage private sector investment
- lead to business growth and broad positive economic impacts
- encourage innovation, collaboration and cluster development

Application opening: June 9 - July 26, 2022 (Consultations, ongoing with Denis Lapierre.

Denis.lapierre@ontario.ca / t. 613-241-3841 ext 222

More info:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/eastern-ontario-development-fund>

Reconnect Ontario 2022

Reconnect Ontario supports festivals and events that have a tourism economic impact and motivate visitors to rediscover Ontario, reconnect people with local experiences and increase tourism spending. Deadline to apply is Wednesday, February 2, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time).

Note: A [ONE-key account](#) is required before the application can be completed and submitted. Please allow time for your account to be created and authorized by the province.

More Info:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government#section-20>

Canadian Agricultural Partnership Fund (CAP)

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is currently accepting applications for the targeted intake to Support Honey Bee Health Management.

The final intake of the province-wide cost-share program for Producers and Other Businesses (Plant Health) is now closed. There may be other intakes that remain open and are accepting eligible applications.

More info:

<https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/canadian-agricultural-partnership/>

Digital Main Street

Digital Main Street supports small business through training and grant programs to create online stores, improve digital marketing and skill development.

- ShopHERE creates online stores for independent small businesses and artists at no cost.
- Online training to improve small business e-commerce at no cost.

More info:

<https://digitalmainstreet.ca/>

Digital Consult Program

The Cornwall Business Enterprise Centre (CBEC) helps to connect small business owners in Cornwall, SDG and Akwesasne with experts in finance, legal, marketing, technology and on-line solutions through the Digital Consult Program. Business owners are able to book an industry expert for up to three (3) 90-minute sessions, allowing them to ask questions, identify available assistant programs, and plan out future activities, etc. (Based on availability).

More info:

<https://businessenterprisecentre.ca/what-we-do/digital-consult-program/>

Ontario Summer Experiences Program

- This one is specifically for municipality's

Every year, the Ontario Public Service, related agencies and community groups, provide up to 5,000 students with jobs across the province. These jobs help Ontario students with limited work experience develop transferable skills, support their career goals and learn more about the Ontario Public Service! Summer Employment Opportunities are full-time, temporary positions ranging from 7 – 18 weeks between May and September.

More info:

<https://www.gojobs.gov.on.ca/Pages/SEP.aspx>

Federal

Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP)

If you are a business, charity, or non-profit in Canada who has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for a wage subsidy, a rent subsidy, or both through the THRP.

You may qualify if you are either:

- part of the tourism, hospitality, arts, entertainment, or recreation sectors; or

- affected by a qualifying public health restriction.

More info:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/wage-rent-subsidies/tourism-hospitality-recovery-program.html>

Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program (HHBRP)

Eligible organizations, regardless of their sector, may qualify for the HHBRP if they don't qualify for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP).

To qualify for the HHBRP, you must meet the following two conditions:

- You have a 12-month average revenue drop from March 2020 to February 2021 of at least 50%
- You have a claim period revenue drop of at least 50%.

More info:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/wage-rent-subsidies/hardest-hit-business-recovery-program.html>

Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP)

As an employer in Canada who continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible to apply for a subsidy to cover part of your wages as you hire new employees and increase existing employees' wages or hours.

Each claim period, eligible employers can claim either the higher of the CRHP, or the wage portion of:

- Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP)
- Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program (HHBRP)

More info:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-caregiving-benefit/crcb-weeks-apply.html>

Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP)

HASCAP loans are targeted to those businesses that have been highly-affected by COVID-19. The government has identified several sectors—like tourism, hospitality, arts and culture. These loans are administered by your local financial institution.

For more details contact your financial institution.

More info:

<https://hascap.ca/>

Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB)

Updated - Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit to include workers in regions where provincial or territorial governments have introduced capacity-limiting restrictions of 50 per cent or more.

As announced previously, this benefit will provide \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers who are directly affected by a COVID-19-related public health lockdown, and who have lost 50 per cent or more of their income as a result.

Check if you meet all other eligibility criteria before applying.

More info:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/worker-lockdown-benefit.html>

Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)

The CRSB is extending until May 7, 2022.

The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they are sick or need to self-isolate.

The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they are sick or need to self-isolate.

More Info:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-sickness-benefit.html>

Employment Insurance (EI)

The Employment Insurance (EI) program provides temporary income support to unemployed workers while they look for employment or to upgrade their skills.

More info:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/ei.html>

Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit (CRCB)

The CRCB is extending until May 7, 2022.

The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care.

More info:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-caregiving-benefit/crcb-weeks-apply.html>

Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)

This program will provide emergency funding support for large Canadian enterprises facing financial challenges in light of the economic impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. CEEFC has been formed to administer this mandate.

LEEFF will be open to large Canadian employers who:

- have a significant impact on Canada's economy, as demonstrated by
 - having significant operations in Canada or
 - supporting a significant workforce in Canada;
- can generally demonstrate approximately \$300 million or more in annual revenues; and
- require a minimum loan size of about \$60 million.

More info:

<https://www.cdev.gc.ca/home-ceefc/>

Canada Summer Jobs Program

Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) is a program under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, which aims to provide flexible and holistic services to help all young Canadians develop the skills and gain paid work experience to successfully transition into the labour market.

The CSJ program objectives align with the redesigned Youth Employment and Skills Strategy and are as follows: provide quality work experiences for youth, respond to national and local priorities to improve access to the labour market for youth who face unique barriers; provide opportunities for youth to develop and improve their skills.

The program provides wage subsidies to employers from not-for-profit organizations, the public sector, and private sector organizations with 50 or fewer full-time employees, to create quality summer work experiences for young people aged 15 to 30 years.

Applications are due by January 25, 2022

Funding confirmations will be sent to employers starting in April 2022.

More info:

https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html?utm_campaign=esdc-edsc-summerjobs-21-22&utm_medium=sem&utm_source=ggl&utm_content=ad-text-en&utm_term=canada%20summer%20jobs%20program&adv=2122-191150&id_campaign=15795773014&id_source=132420010552&id_content=573180082731&gclid=CjwKCAiA55mPBhBOEiwANmzoQtCDHeB0mfBYS6lDQ3ihnTMUVMdcfy5V0zEtf7v_g6vDebYrxpucBRoCY3cQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Local

Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, Regional Incentives Program

The County believes that 50% matching grant funding is a direct, predictable, and simple way to stimulate private sector investment, attract and retain businesses, and increase taxable assessment. These grants are available to eligible property owners and authorized tenants within the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

The next intake period for the Regional Incentives Program is expected to launch on February 1, 2022 (*Pending approval of the 2022 Budget for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry*). Projects funded through the Regional Incentives Program must demonstrate that they will:

- Stimulate investment in tourism and in the agricultural sector by funding diverse, on farm expansions and agri tourism.
- Encourage redevelopment and private sector investment in existing building stock within the County to support employment, reduce the number of vacant commercial, institutional and industrial buildings, and increase the assessment base.
- Increase the amount of permanent roofed accommodations within the County to specifically accommodate for an increase in tourism establishments that cater to short-term accommodations.

To learn more about the eligibility criteria, contact Tara Kirkpatrick, the Program Coordinator and Manager of Economic Development at the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. She can be reached at tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca or by phone at T. 613-932-1515 ext. 1227.

More info:

<https://www.sdgcounties.ca/regional-incentives-programs>

Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Regional Tourism Grant

The SDG Regional Tourism Grant program is designed to help existing businesses and organizations increase visitation to Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry tourism initiatives and attractions. The next intake period is expected to open in February 2022. For information, contact Karina Belanger at kbelanger@sdgcounties.ca

More info:

<https://whereontariobegan.ca/sdg-regional-tourism-grant/>

Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit

The Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit supports business investment, economic growth and job creation in designated regions across the province that lagged in employment growth between 2009 and 2019, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

It is a 10% refundable Corporate Income Tax credit for corporations that invest more than \$50,000 to construct, renovate or acquire eligible commercial and industrial buildings in these regions. The Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit will:

- help address regional disparities by bringing greater opportunities and prosperity to businesses, workers and families in these communities
- help attract investments, boost growth and create jobs by supporting businesses, including those that are recovering from COVID-19, to expand and grow

As announced in the 2021 Ontario Budget, a temporary enhancement to the credit provides an additional 10 per cent credit for eligible expenditures in excess of \$50,000 and up to \$500,000 for eligible property that becomes available for use during a qualifying corporation's taxation year, and in the period beginning on March 24, 2021 and ending before January 1, 2023. The maximum credit in respect of eligible expenditures that meet all of the conditions for the enhanced credit would be \$90,000 in a year.

More info:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/regional-opportunities-investment-tax-credit>

Starter Company Plus (Cornwall Business Enterprise Centre)

Starter Company PLUS provides successful applicants with assistance to start, grow or buy a small business. Assistance includes training, business skills development, mentoring from local business leaders and capital. The program is open to Ontario residents 18 years of age and older.

The Starter Company PLUS program partners entrepreneurs with experts who will help you develop the skills needed to launch and sustain successful businesses. Program participants are also eligible to receive a grant of up to \$4,500. The application period is currently closed. It is expected to reopen Spring 2022.

More info:

<https://businessenterprisecentre.ca/>