

Funding Programs for Advanced Manufacturers

Mentor Works Ltd. is dedicated to accelerating small businesses' growth through government funding support. We create and implement customized funding strategies and assist with the application process to maximize each company's funding potential. Through government funding, we extend cash flow to serve your top strategic initiatives.

Note: For all project-based grants and loans, please do not begin your project spend until you are approved for funding.

Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP): Max \$10M Grant

Solving Internal Technical Challenges & Collaborative R&D with Post-Secondary/Research Institutions

Grant (typically 80% direct labour, 50% subcontractor costs) for either internal or third party collaboration on technical feasibility studies, technology adoption, product development or process development projects, or production design projects.

Eligibility: 1-500 on payroll, incorporated for ≥ 2 years, committed to internal R&D activities.

Timelines: Projects require approval prior to spend and funding runs from April 1 to March 31 each year.

Project Themes: Development of innovative products, processes, and services. Projects must focus on solving an **internal technical challenge** by adopting/developing technology & processing enhancements.

Ontario Automotive Modernization Program (O-AMP): Up to \$150,000/50% Grant

Technology Adoption for Manufacturing Productivity Enhancement

Helps automotive suppliers improve productivity through technology adoption projects. This program focuses on projects involving both hardware and software adoption, such as innovative equipment that reduces costs and expands manufacturing capabilities, while integrating with modern software tools.

Eligibility: Ontario automotive manufacturing businesses with <500 employees in Ontario and <\$1B annual revenue globally. At least 50% of revenue must come from the automotive supply sector, selling to OEMs (not aftermarket parts). 2+ years of financial statements. Must not have any current projects with O-AMP funding. **Please note:** Past recipients of O-AMP funding must complete their project and related reporting before applying again.

Timelines: This program's latest intake opens November 15, 2021 and closes January 4, 2022.

Project Themes: Industry 4.0 technology adoption (including hardware/software), new product development, and Lean manufacturing projects that improve operational efficiency and competitiveness.

Southwestern Ontario Development Fund/Eastern Ontario Development Fund

Up to 15% Funding for High-Growth Expansion Projects

The Business Stream supports high potential growth in [select Ontario regions](#) to invest in new facilities and equipment that leads to job creation, revenue growth, (domestic & abroad), productivity improvements, innovation, and broad regional economic impact. Repayable loan: Up to 15% of project costs to a maximum of \$5,000,000. (Up to 30% to a max of \$500,000 of the loan may be forgiven if company meets project impacts). Grant funding for rural businesses: Up to 15% to a maximum of \$500,000.

Eligibility: For profit businesses incorporated 3+ years in eligible SWODF/EODF regions. Advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and processing industries. Minimum project budget of \$500k+ OR \$200k+ in rural regions for SMEs.

Timeline: Applications are currently open for intake period nine until April 21, 2022.

Project Themes: Eligible project costs include materials, equipment and machinery, R&D labour, training and talent, etc.

NGen Manufacturing Program: Up to 44.4% Grant for R&D

Collaborative Technology Research and Development

As administered by Next Generation Manufacturing Canada (NGen), the program taps into Innovation Superclusters Initiative (ISI) funding to support groups of businesses that develop high potential technologies, create groundbreaking process transformation, and de-risk the adoption of technology to help manufacturers compete globally.

Eligibility: Projects must be transformational in scale or impact, and be of wider benefit to Canada's advanced manufacturing ecosystem. Must have a minimum of three private-sector project partners; all NGen members.
Timeline: Open two-stage application process including an Expression of Interest (EOI) and, if called forward, a full application. Expected project length is 18-36 months; all projects must be complete by March 31, 2023.
Project Themes: Collaborative technology development and application. Should have wide-reaching impacts that expand the potential of Canadian manufacturers, even those not directly involved in the project.

Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF): Minimum \$10M in Grants/Repayable Funding

Innovative R&D, National Ecosystem and Collaboration

Supports industrial research and technology demonstration that accelerates the commercialization and scale up of Canadian businesses and innovation through collaborative industrial research, development, and demonstration projects. Must lead to significant job creation, advance the ecosystem/industry, and provide benefits to Canada.

Eligibility: Incorporated Canadian businesses with high growth potential and the ability to drive innovation. Must leverage significant private sector co-investments.
Timeline: Streams 1-3 and 5 offer continuous intake, stream 4 has annual intakes. Projects can go beyond 5 years.
Project Themes: Innovative technology research, development, and commercialization, business expansion, capital investment, and collaborative R&D with post-secondary or research institutions.

CanExport: Up to 50% of Eligible Costs to a Maximum of \$50,000 per Grant

Virtual Trade Shows, Marketing/SEO & Translation Costs

CanExport provides direct grant support to Canadian businesses seeking to develop new export opportunities and markets, particularly high-growth priority markets and sectors, by covering a portion of eligible sales and marketing activities.

Eligibility: Incorporated Canadian for-profit businesses with <500 FTE employees and \$100,000-\$100M in Canadian annual revenue. Target markets must represent <\$100,000 or 10% of total sales.
Timeline: Applications are currently open. Applicants must be approved before incurring expenses. Verdicts take up to 60 business days. Applicants can have one active application at a time.
Project Themes: Virtual trade shows, digital advertising, SEO, marketing materials creation, consultant costs for expert advice (i.e. business, tax, legal, e-commerce), and market research. Funding for activities requiring physical presence, such as in-person trade shows are potential opportunities.

Ontario Manufacturing Training Program (OMTP): Up to 25-50% to a Max \$100,000 Grant

Training for Innovative Software, Equipment, & Processes

Supports training employees on areas that spur innovation and help achieve a competitive advantage. Training should increase operational efficiency and enhance export sales.

Eligibility: Ontario manufacturer with 10-1000 employees, incorporated for ≥ 3 years, and exporting or with the intentions to export due to the training benefits. Past applications may affect ability to re-apply, in which case other training grants may be better options.
Timelines: Training can take place over a 12-month period unless otherwise specified by the active intake period. Training can begin after the application has been fully approved.
Project Themes: High-skill training on ERP, CAD software, equipment, processes, and other software tools to improve productivity and promote exporting.

Canada Job Grant (CJG): Max 50-83% up to \$6,000-10,000 per Trainee

Workforce Training for Skills Development

The Canada Job Grant is a critical component of Canada's Economic Action Plan. It supports third-party employee programs which build a highly skilled workforce and lead to improved employability. Employers choose the individuals they would like to have trained, and the training that meets their workforce development needs.

Eligibility: Canadian-based SME w/ \$2M liability insurance. Trainee must be a permanent Canadian citizen or granted refugee status. Trainer must be a separate entity from applicant company.

Timeline: Training must be completed within 12 months of application approval.

Training Themes: Post-secondary, technical skills, leadership, marketing, business systems, etc.

Jobs and Growth Fund: Up to 50% to a Maximum of \$10 Million

Job Creation and Long-Term Growth Activities

The Jobs and Growth Fund will support projects that contribute to near-term job creation and long-term resilience through various focus areas. This program is available through both FedDev Ontario and Western Diversification (BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba) for applicants in those regions.

Eligibility: Businesses, including co-operatives, non-profits, & economy development partners in eligible provinces.

Timelines: Application accepted on ongoing basis. All projects must be completed prior to March 31, 2024.

Project Themes: Support the transition to a green economy, foster an inclusive recovery, preserve Canada's competitiveness and future-proof SMEs through digital adoption, and strengthen the capacity in critical sectors.

To determine your business' suitability for any of the above government funding programs, please click on the title of a funding program. You will be taken to Mentor Works' website where additional resources can be accessed. You may also reach out to the Government Funding Planner(s) listed below who can discuss a range of funding incentives.

Get Started - Book a Funding Discovery Session:

Click the name of your region's contact to book your free funding discovery session.

- Southwestern Ontario: [Jeff Dumart](#), jeffd@mentorworks.ca, 1-888-599-3111 x115
- Southwestern Ontario & Toronto: [Mustafa Aydin](#), mustafa@mentorworks.ca, 1-888-599-3111 x140
- Toronto & Eastern Ontario: [Sara Hipson](#), sara@mentorworks.ca, 1-888-599-3111 x141
- Southwestern Ontario: [Bernadeen McLeod](#), bernadeen@mentorworks.ca, 1-888-599-3111 x98