

Funding Programs for Clean Technology (CleanTech) Businesses

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.

Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) Net Zero Accelerator: Up to 50% in Government Funding

Large Scale Clean Technology Projects (Minimum \$10M+ Project Budget)

SIF Net Zero Accelerator supports rapid decarbonization projects with large emitters, research and development, commercialization scale-up of clean technologies and acceleration of industrial transformation.

Eligibility: Businesses must be operating in Canada. Projects can come from any industry, but the company should have high growth potential and projects must result in significant environmental and economic benefits to Canada.

Timeline: Continuous application intake. \$3 billion investment will be awarded/earmarked over 5 years.

Project Themes: Projects should lead to significant environmental impacts/benefits to Canada or support the growth of Canada's low-carbon economy. Three focus areas include: (1) development/adoption of cleantech for all industrial sectors, (2) aerospace/automotive manufacturing sector cleantech development, (3) development of a Canadian battery innovation and industrial ecosystem.

Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC): Up to 33% in Government Funding

Research, Development and Demonstration of Novel Cleantech Innovation

SDTC supports Canadian companies – clean technology trailblazers – to develop and demonstrate new environmental technologies that address climate change, clean air, clean water, and clean soil. Average funding awards are \$2M-\$4M.

Eligibility: A Canadian company undertaking an R&D and/or demonstration project to prove emerging and novel clean technologies & innovation. Projects must be in late-stage development/pre-commercialization (TRL 3-7).

Timeline: Two-stage process with continuous application intake for the EOI.

Project Themes: Projects must lead to significant environmental impacts including GHG emissions reductions, clean air, clean water, and clean soil.

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.

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 businesss 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.

Industrial Research Assistance Proxgram (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.

Innovative Solutions Canada: Grants and Federal Procurement Contracts

Developing Technologies to Solve Government Innovation Challenges

ISC provides government grants and procurement contracts to stimulate technology research, development, and commercialization. The program helps startups and small/medium-sized businesses (SMEs) overcome technology development hurdles to produce globally-demanded products and services and improve government operations.

Amount: Phase 1: Grants up to \$150k; Phase 2: Grants up to \$1M; Phase 3: Procurement contracts - no maximum.

Eligibility: For-profit, privately held Canadian businesses with a maximum 499 FTE employees.

Timelines: Ongoing departmental innovation challenges each with a unique application deadline. Phase 1 projects may last up to 6 months while Phase 2 projects may span up to two years in length.

Project Themes: Proof of concept and prototype development projects to solve federal government departmental innovation challenges. Specific projects depend on challenges currently open for application.

R&D Project Hiring Grants Program: Up to 50% Grant

Hiring a Research Intern for R&D or Data Analysis

Assists innovative businesses to connect with academic researchers (**Internship**: college and university students, Masters graduates; **Fellowship**: PhD graduates, post-doctoral fellows) in support of practical research and development projects. Funding reduces the cost of a researcher's wages over a 4-24 month period.

Eligibility: Ontario-based businesses with a research-oriented projects where the results can be commercialized to benefit both the applicant and Government of Ontario.

Timelines: Continuous intake for both streams. Internships can be used in 4-month increments (up to \$10,000 in funding/period), while fellowships must use 12-month increments (up to \$35,000 in funding/period).

Project Themes: Solving an internal technical challenge, developing technology, or conducting advanced research.

Internship Hiring Grants: Up to 75% Payroll Coverage up to \$7.5k

Hiring Post-Secondary Students for Co-op Placements

Wage subsidy towards a current post-secondary student while they complete a paid internship placement over a full semester. Program fit depends on intern's area of study, role, and the employer's industry.

Note: Availability of funding is subject to change throughout the year based on awarded applications.

Eligibility: Businesses can be in any industry, including bio-economy, financial technologies, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, clean technology, and agri-food industries.

Timeline: Internships can be for a maximum of 4 months.

Candidate Focus: Candidate must be a Permanent Resident, Canadian citizen, or have refugee status, and must be enrolled at a post-secondary institution.

Sector-Focus Hiring Grants: Max \$12,000-\$15,000 or 50% Grant

Hiring a Youth Post-Secondary Graduate

Full-time work placement, minimum of 3 or 4 months, but must end on or before the end of February/March depending on the sector. Sector specific funding includes funding for food/beverage companies. If you have a candidate, please ensure they are not on payroll before you are accepted for funding.

Note: Availability of funding is subject to change throughout the year based on awarded applications.

Eligibility: Graduate must have a post-secondary diploma, be between 15-30 years old, Canadian citizen/resident, out of school, and work minimum of 30 hours per week.

Timeline: Internships must be 3 or 4+ months. Funding launches Q2 of each year.

Candidate Focus: Must provide relevant work experience to the candidate, related to their post-secondary area of study. Some program variants require specific position types (ie. web developer).

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.

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.

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.

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
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