

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: These programs have multiple annual intakes. Please contact your representative for an update.

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 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: These programs have multiple annual intakes. Please contact your representative for an update.

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

Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Competitiveness (AMIC): 15% to a max of \$5M

Capital Equipment, Technology, and Developing Employee Skills

The Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Competitiveness (AMIC) Stream is designed to help SMEs in Ontario that are operating in the advanced manufacturing industry with grant and loan support. AMIC is focused on companies looking to invest in capital equipment, adopting technology, and developing employee skills

Eligibility: In advanced manufacturing industry, located in Ontario with a minimum of 10 employees.

Timeline: These programs have multiple annual intakes. Please contact your representative for an update.

Project Themes: Projects may be eligible if they create jobs in Ontario, drive innovation, help manufacturing companies adopt new technologies, attract private sector investments, and more.

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.

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. **Note:** supercluster projects between \$500k and \$20M are on hold until further notice

CanExport SMEs: 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 adaptation, 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 for events taking place next year.

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.

OVIN Electric Vehicle (EV): Receive Funding up to \$100K

Supports Development of Technologies in Electric Vehicles (EV) and Battery Manufacturing

COVIN program will help foster the next generation of electric, connected, and autonomous vehicle and mobility technologies in Ontario. Helps foster electric, connected, and autonomous vehicle and mobility technologies in Ontario, such as light-weighting and transmission systems, electrified powertrains, batteries and battery materials, EV battery and component manufacturing process, charging and EV fleet management technologies, and hydrogen fuel cells, electric motors and electronic micro mobility

Eligibility: SME with less than 500 full-time employees and operations (R&D, manufacturing, product management, etc.) in Ontario. Applicants must collaborate with one Primary Partner (not an academic institution) and an unlimited number of additional Secondary Partners. Potential Partners include SMEs, national and multi-national enterprises, municipalities, indigenous communities, and not-for-profit organizations. TRL of levels 3-9.

Timelines: To learn more about program timelines, get in touch with a Mentor Works representative.

Project Themes: Commercialization of Ontario-made technologies in the following priority areas: Mass light vehicles, heavy duty vehicles, recreational vehicles (RVs), and others used for goods movement. Transportation infrastructure. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Transit-supportive systems and vehicles.

OVIN Talent Development Program: Receive Funding up to \$35K

Supports Collaboration Between Young Talent and Canadian Automotive Companies

The Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN)'s Talent Development Program (TDP) is an Ontario government funding program designed to combine Ontario companies with top young minds to stimulate industry-driven research and development projects for Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (C/AV) technologies. TDP is provided through two streams: TalentEdge Fellowship Program (TFP) and TalentEdge Internship program (TIP).

Eligibility: **TFP** requires fellows to be recently rewarded with a PhD in a C/AV-related field. **TIP** requires interns to be students in their last year of undergrad, recent grad, masters, or current PhD students in a C/AV-related field. Must not be currently employed by the partnering company.

Timelines: To learn more about program timelines, get in touch with a Mentor Works representative.

Project Themes: Both streams must have clear projects with outlined activities, checkpoints, and outcomes, to measure during the fellowship. Must be R&D related for Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (C/AV) tech. Fellows must have on-the-job training in C/AV technologies such as software and hardware development, AI, and data analytics. Must be commensurate with fellow's field of expertise.

OVIN WinterTech Development Program: Receive up to \$500K in Grant Funding

Funds Projects Designed to Improve Technologies for Winter Conditions

The Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN)'s WinterTech Development Program is an Ontario government funding program designed to support projects related to the development, validation, testing, demonstration, and prototyping of mobility technologies and services designed to meet the unique demands of winter weather conditions.

Eligibility: Small-or Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) with operations in Ontario and fewer than 500 employees. Must have a minimum of two partners: an SME and another non-academic partner.

Timelines: To learn more about program timelines, get in touch with a Mentor Works representative.

Project Themes: Must focus on commercialization of Ontario-made technologies in the following areas: Mass light vehicles, such as cars, trucks and vans, heavy duty vehicles, including commercial vehicles, trucks, buses, recreational vehicles (RVs), and others used for goods movement, transportation infrastructure, intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), transit-supportive systems and vehicles.

OVIN Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (C/AV) & Smart Mobility: Up to \$1M

Foster Electric, Connected, and Autonomous Vehicle and Mobility Technologies

Connected/Autonomous Vehicles & Smart Mobility (C/AV) Stream supports Ontario projects related to the development and demonstration of technologies in connected and autonomous vehicle and smart mobility technologies.

Minimum 2:1 contribution required from applicants/private sector.

Eligibility: SME with less than 500 full-time employees and operations (R&D, manufacturing, product management, etc.) in Ontario. Applicants must collaborate with one Primary Partner (not an academic institution) and an unlimited number of additional Secondary Partners. Potential Partners include SMEs, national and multi-national enterprises, municipalities, indigenous communities, and not-for-profit organizations. TRL of levels 3-9.

Timelines: To learn more about program timelines, get in touch with a Mentor Works representative.

Project Themes: Commercialization of Ontario-made technologies in the following priority areas: Mass light vehicles, heavy duty vehicles, recreational vehicles (RVs), and others used for goods movement. Transportation infrastructure. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Transit-supportive systems and vehicles.

OCI – Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan (DMAP): Up to \$15,000

Helps SMEs Work With a Digital Adoption Consultant to Generate a Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan

Supports SMEs to work with a Digital Adoption Consultant to generate a Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan tailored specifically to their organization's digital needs.

Eligibility: Incorporated federally or provincially with a valid Business Number, are a for-profit, privately owned business, and have between 1 – 499 full time equivalent employees.

Timeline: This program has multiple intakes. Please contact your representative for an update.

Project Themes: Generate effective Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan to enable digital adoption and transformation in the SME and drive productivity increases and company growth.

OCI – Technology Demonstration Program (TDP): Up to \$150,000

Helps SMEs Work With a Digital Adoption Consultant to Generate a Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan

Supports SMEs that have completed a DMAP project to adopt and implement the digital technology identified in their DMAP, accelerating the growth of the SME, while supporting the commercialization of Made-in-Ontario digital technologies.

Eligibility: Must be an Ontario business that has completed a Digital Modernization and Adoption Program (DMAP) project.

Timeline: This program has multiple intakes. Please contact your representative for an update.

Project Themes: Must support the adoption and implementation of commercialized digital technology by an SME in partnership with a digital vendor and align with their completed DMAP.

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.

Book Your Free Funding Discovery Session:

Do I Qualify?

Toll Free Number: 1-888-599-3111