

# Backgrounder Document d'information



Ministry of Community  
and Social Services

Ministère des Services  
sociaux et communautaires

June 22, 2007

## EMPLOYMENT INNOVATIONS FUND PROJECTS

As part of the 2006 provincial budget, the government established the Employment Innovations Fund to engage Ontario's employers in creating and expanding job opportunities for people receiving financial assistance from Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Twenty-five projects have been selected to receive funding through the Employment Innovations Fund:

Location	Project Submitted By	Brief Project Description
Province-wide	Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada	Helping Ontario businesses recruit, accommodate and retain qualified staff with disabilities to fill skills shortages in the manufacturing sector by implementing an employer challenge to hire people with disabilities, building member awareness and recognizing the achievements of employer champions
Province-wide	Canadian Food Industry Council and the Ontario March of Dimes	Assisting the Ontario grocery sector to increase career opportunities for people with disabilities through a targeted provincial marketing strategy to the Canadian Food Industry Council's membership
Brantford	The Corporation of the City of Brantford	Helping victims and potential victims of domestic abuse develop skills to gain employment in the skilled trades
Hastings	County of Hastings Ontario Works and the Town of Deseronto	Supporting an initiative that helps people get to and from work, thereby removing this key barrier to employment for people on Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program in the county
Hawkesbury	Le Phénix	Providing participants with job-specific training and employment opportunities with a local employer partner
Huron County	County of Huron Social Services and the County of Stratford	Providing hands-on training in the customer service/hospitality sector in the employers' places of business during the 'down-time' of the winter months to mirror the experience of actual employment

Kitchener	Lutherwood	Providing customized training to enable participants to obtain employment as either truck drivers or in the banking field with employer sponsors
Madoc	Madoc C.O.P.E. Corporation	Establishing a community-based storefront bakeshop to create job and training opportunities that will prepare participants for employment opportunities at other local food service providers
Niagara	Regional Municipality of Niagara	A collaboration among three levels of government across 12 municipalities in Niagara and employers to provide direct, daily, roundtrip transportation for social assistance recipients to Niagara workplaces in the service, hospitality, horticulture, health, construction and manufacturing sectors
North Bay	North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce, District Social Services Administration Boards in the North East Region, and the District Municipality of Muskoka	Creating a pool of employees who are ready for work and establishing a database system to streamline the recruitment and screening process for employers
Ottawa	Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work	Training participants on customer service-based skills, leading to employment opportunities with partner employers for successful graduates of the program
Ottawa	City of Ottawa	Helping participants access employment opportunities and creating a marketing campaign to engage local employers in hiring social assistance recipients
Peel Region	Regional Municipality of Peel	Expanding an existing partnership in order to place participants in full-time jobs with a large logistics/manufacturing employer and to support them after placement through a job retention strategy
Peel Region	Training and Renewal Foundation	Providing pre-employment and on-the-job skills training to prepare candidates for careers as coffee and vending service workers. Graduates of the training will receive a diploma recognized by the Ontario Coffee and Vending Service Association and will be placed in jobs with employer partners
Prescott-Russell	Centre de service à l'emploi de Prescott-Russell Inc.	Developing a volunteer transportation system to get participants to and from work, addressing a significant barrier to employment in the area

Sault Ste. Marie	John Howard Society of Sault Ste. Marie and District	Providing up to six months of work experience in entry level jobs in retail, hospitality and cleaning brought about by the expansion of local call centres
St. Thomas and Elgin County	St. Thomas and Elgin County Ontario Works	Training, licensing and employing participants in truck driving and providing support to participants for one year following training
Sudbury	Community Living Ontario and the Rotary Clubs of Ontario	Building the capacity of business leaders to take on a key role in promoting the hiring and accommodation of people who have a disability
Sudbury	Sudbury-Manitoulin District Social Services Administration Board	Supporting workplace attachment through skill development and job placements with local employer sponsors for graduates of the program
Toronto	George Brown College	Participants will be supported by a Job Coach and will receive a Construction Craft and Worker Level 1 Completion Certificate, as well as a Material Handling Certificate. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's redevelopment project will provide opportunities for work placements and employment
Toronto	Jewish Vocational Service of Metropolitan Toronto and the Retail Council of Canada	Building employment opportunities and career pathways in the retail sector by providing participants with a paid internship with one of 12 supporting employers
Toronto	Toronto District School Board	Providing participants with training in material handling, shipping/receiving, purchasing and inventory, as well as with employment opportunities with employer partners
Toronto	Toronto Social Services, Toronto Community Housing Corporation and The Daniels Corporation	Connecting local residents with training, employment, and opportunities for career advancement associated with the revitalization of Regent Park
Windsor	Community Living Windsor	Providing training and co-op placements geared towards entry-level positions in the hospitality industry
Windsor	Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor Inc., St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology and the City of Windsor Ontario Works	Providing a group-based intervention program designed to support long-term employment sustainability for women receiving social assistance. Sponsoring employers will provide job placements to graduates of the program

Proposals are currently being accepted for the next round of funding. Letters of Interest must be submitted using the Employment Innovations Fund Application Package, which is available online at [www.mcass.gov.on.ca](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca). Priority consideration for funding this year will be given to Letters of Interest submitted by July 25, 2007.

The Employment Innovations Fund is funded entirely by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and is one of the many ways the McGuinty government is helping people on social assistance get into the workforce and on the path to a brighter future.

– 30 –

Contact:  
John Letherby  
Communications and Marketing Branch  
416-325-5187

*Disponible en français*

[www.mcass.gov.on.ca](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca)