

Southwest Ontario Development Program (SWODP)

Fund Pillars

Business Development Fund

Maximum contribution up to \$5,000 per applicant; assistance will not normally exceed 90% of total eligible budgeted costs.

The Business Development Fund's objective is to support incremental activities that lead to the growth of new and existing businesses.

The Business Development Fund is intended to assist applicants to:

- a. Ensure that all aspects of their businesses and plans have been considered and properly investigated;
- b. Ensure that they have a clear understanding of issues and potential problems pertaining to their business/organization; and
- c. Improve their potential of gaining access to required financing in a timely manner.

Skills Development Fund

Maximum contribution normally up to \$2,500 per employee, to a maximum of \$25,000 per applicant (business or organization/association);

Contributions to non-profit recipients may be up to 100% of eligible costs;

Contributions to private sector recipients will normally not exceed 50% of eligible costs.

Summer students, employees in temporary jobs, or part time jobs less than 20 hrs per week, are not eligible unless it can be demonstrated that training will result in a full time (> 20 hours) or permanent job.

The Skills Development Fund's objective is to assist and encourage training of employees and to enhance the skills set of those employees/owners/managers, provide transferable skills and contribute to the overall strength of the work force capabilities of the area.

Internship Fund

Maximum contribution up to \$2,500 per intern per month;

Contributions to non-profit recipients may be up to 100% of eligible costs;

Contributions to private sector recipients will normally not exceed 50% of eligible costs.

The Internship Fund provides recent secondary, post-secondary and retraining graduates with valuable skills from full-time work experience in business and economic development with the objective of leading to longer term employment in the area.

Youth Interns may be up to the age of 30 and must have graduated with a degree, diploma or Ontario Ministry Certificate from a secondary or post-secondary institution directly related to the approved project activity.

Non-Youth Interns must have recently graduated from a secondary or post-secondary institution or from a retraining program and looking to further develop their skills through a full-time work experience in a position directly related to their education.

Local Initiatives Fund

Maximum contribution up to \$10,000 per recipient; assistance will not normally exceed 90% of total eligible budgeted costs.

The purpose of the Local Initiatives Fund is to strengthen communities by supporting community based initiatives that will enhance the community capacity for community economic development and diversification.

Community Capacity Fund

Maximum contribution up to \$75,000 per applicant; assistance will not normally exceed 90% of total eligible budgeted costs.

The Community Capacity Fund is designed to provide funding to enable partnerships between non-profit organizations that are looking to undertake innovative initiatives with the potential of making a significant impact on the community economic development of communities.