

# Funding Programs for Ontario's Ag Sector

## Employment Funding Programs

### Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

#### *Green Farms Stream*

This stream funds internships on farms to support environmentally-beneficial management activities. These internships must be at least four months in length and be completed by March 31. You could receive up to a maximum of \$10,000 per intern under the Green Farms Stream. Applications will be accepted until all funds have been allocated and approved on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

#### *Green Internships Stream*

This stream funds interns to undertake environmentally-beneficial activities, services or research in the agricultural sector. These internships must be at least four months in length and be completed by March 31. This program is offered to employers in the agricultural sector, but not necessarily on farms. You could receive up to \$16,000 per intern under the Green Internships Stream. Applications will be accepted until all funds have been allocated and approved on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

### Career Focus Program – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

This program helps fund 80 agricultural internships for Canadian graduates annually. Each internship lasts at least four months to a maximum of 12 months. This program is not exclusively a summer employment program. Applications are accepted annually between October and November, with employment beginning the following year (April or later). For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

### Canada Summer Jobs – Service Canada

This program provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students. Not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees can apply for funding to employ young people aged 15 to 30 years old who are full-time students, intending to return to their studies in the next school year. Applications are typically accepted in March for positions beginning in May. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

## Energy Funding Programs

### Small Business Lighting Incentives – SaveONenergy Program

Ontario businesses have a simple solution for energy efficient lighting. Small businesses with an average annual demand of less than 100kW qualify can receive up to \$2000 in free lighting. To see if you qualify and how to apply, [click here](#).

### Retrofit Incentives – SaveONenergy Program

Incentives are available for replacing inefficient equipment with high-efficiency equipment. The amount offered is based on the difference between the amount of electricity the equipment currently uses, and the amount that the new equipment will use. To see if you qualify and how to apply, [click here](#).

### Energy Audit Incentives – SaveONenergy Program

The audit funding incentive is intended to cover up to 50% of the cost of an energy audit. Business customers are eligible for incentives to complete energy audits assessing the potential for energy savings through equipment replacement, operational practices, or participation in building systems and envelopes projects. To see if you qualify and how to apply, [click here](#).

### Gasoline Used in Farm Equipment Refund – Ontario Ministry of Finance

If you or your business buys gasoline for unlicensed equipment - such as equipment for farming, construction or manufacturing - you may get a refund of the gasoline tax you have paid. To see if you qualify and how to apply, [click here](#).

## Event Funding Programs

### Business Management Speaker and Event Funding - Agri-food Management Institute (AMI)

AMI invites Ontario groups and associations in agriculture and agri-food to apply for funding to cover the costs of organizing a business management speaker at an Ontario event. Applications will be accepted until all funds have been allocated and approved on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

### Agri-Food Value Chain Networking Events – Agri-food Management Institute (AMI)

AMI invites regional groups and organizations involved in supporting agriculture or agri-food business networking or local food development to bring together participants along the Ontario value chain. The purpose of the event is to meet, learn and network with other regional stakeholders in the value chain and identify opportunities for value-added business

opportunities. Applications will be accepted until all funds have been allocated, and approved on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

## **Local Economic Development Funding Programs**

### **Southwestern and Eastern Ontario Development Funds – Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Growth**

The Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF) and the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF) offer financial support to businesses, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations for economic development in Ontario. The fund supports projects that: create jobs, encourage innovation, collaboration and cluster development and/or attract private sector investment. For more information about eligibility criteria or to apply, for SWODF [click here](#) or for EODF [click here](#).

### **Growing Forward 2 – Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments**

In Ontario, Growing Forward 2 (GF2) helps agri-food and agri-based bioproducts producers, processors, organizations and collaborations expand markets, manage shared risks and grow their profits through cost-shared programs. Projects are funded in the key areas of: Environment and Climate Change Adaptation, Assurance Systems, Animal and Plant Health, Market Development, Labour and Productivity Enhancement, and Business and Leadership Development. For more information about eligibility, the next intake period, and the application process, [click here](#).

### **Local Food Investment Fund – The Greenbelt Fund**

The Greenbelt Fund delivers an Ontario-wide program offered to farmers and local food leaders to ensure more Ontario-grown food is being served and distributed through public institutions, retail, and foodservice markets. The Fund is split into three streams: the Market Access Grant Stream, the Broader Public Sector Grant Stream and the Local Food Literacy Grant Stream. For more information about eligibility, the next intake period, and the application process, [click here](#).

### **Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) Programs**

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) wants to partner with business-minded Northerners to develop innovative technologies, invest in infrastructure, bolster collaboration and build economic development capacity. The NOHFC offers funding for an [Internship Program](#), [Business Expansion Projects](#), [Small Business Start-up Projects](#) and many others. For a full list of the funding opportunities, [click here](#).

## Other Funding Programs

### Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Rural Clean Water Program

The Rural Clean Water Program is a voluntary, confidential agriculturally-based program that offers technical assistance and financial incentive to farm and rural non-farm landowners to assist with implementing Best Management Practice (BMP) projects that address:

- Rural water quality;
- Environmental enhancement and sustainability; and,
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The program offers over 15 BMP categories to eligible applicants. For more information on the RCWP, eligibility and how to apply, please contact Toronto and Region Conservation or [click here](#).

If you are outside the TRCA area, your local Conservation Authority (CA) may deliver a similar program. Contact your local CA and ask about a Clean Water or Water Quality Program in your area.

### Ontario Trillium Foundation Grants

The Ontario Trillium Foundation offers grants for community-based initiatives that help build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario. The grants are split into four different streams: (1) Seed Grants are for projects at conceptual stage; (2) Grow Grants are for building on the success of a proven program; (3) Capitol Grants are for broadening access to, and improving, community spaces; and (4) Collective Impact Grants are for bringing about fundamental changes with collective action. For more information about the grant streams or to apply, [click here](#).

## Newsletters and Updates

To keep updated on the many funding programs available to the agricultural sector, you may want to subscribe to the following newsletters:

*Agri-Food Management Institute* [Subscribe to AMI's Newsletter](#)

*Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada* [Subscribe to the Agri-info Newsletter](#)

*Agricultural Adaptation Council (click on Sign up for AAC News and Updates)* [Subscribe to AAC's Newsletter](#)

*The Greenbelt Fund (Scroll to bottom of page: Sign up for news & updates)* [Subscribe to The Greenbelt Fund News and Updates](#)

*OMAFRA Ag Business Update* [Subscribe to Ag Business Update](#)

*OMAFRA Research and Innovation News* [Subscribe to RIBS-to-Go E-Bulletin](#)

*OMAFRA Regional Economic Development News* [Subscribe to OMAFRA Connects](#)

*OMAFRA Full List of Notices, Updates, Blogs and Podcasts* [OMAFRA's Subscription Page](#)