

Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program

Ontario is providing financial support through the Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program to guard the health and safety of workers against COVID-19 and to help ensure the continued supply of local food all year round.

Category 1 - Workplace COVID-19 Prevention

Under this category, eligible applicants can claim 60 per cent funding of eligible expenses to help support the adoption of prevention and mitigation measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among agri-food workers.

Eligibility

To be eligible, businesses must:

- Employ three or more paid workers.
- Fall under one of the following:
 - Food or beverage processors/manufacturers involved in the transformation of agricultural commodities, food, beverage, or agri-based bio-products.
 - A farm that produces local agricultural commodities.
 - A primary food processor for fruit and vegetable crops.
 - An on-farm service provider where agriculture employees operate within close proximity of one another (i.e., poultry catchers/vaccinators,

professional barn cleaners, corn detassellers, hatcheries and transporters of agricultural commodities).

- An agri-food industry organization/association.
- Be located in Ontario under a legal entity or have a valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN), an allowable religious/cultural exemption, not-for-profit corporation or similar entity under an Act of Canada.

Note: Pet food processors and restaurants are not eligible under the program.

Funding

This category provides up to 60 per cent funding of eligible expenses, which is limited to \$50,000 per industry, organization, business or property.

Eligible expenses

Goods or services specifically required for the implementation of eligible activities that guard against the spread of COVID-19. These project expenses must be completed, invoiced and paid for prior to the date of submission of an application or February 1, 2022. Eligible expenses include:

- The purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies for workers of up to \$7,500 limit for expenses.

- Installation or upgrade of Wi-Fi equipment of up to \$10,000 limit to expand access to Wi-Fi within employer-provided housing/accommodations or worker common areas, to facilitate physical distancing.
- Housing or workplace modifications to allow for proper health and safety measures and physical distancing, such as minor capital renovations (physical/infrastructure), shielding, barriers, and agriculture/agri-food equipment machinery.
- Accommodations to enable physical distancing best practices and allow workers/employees to attend workplaces (e.g., hotel room rentals, housing lease or rental).
- Transportation expenses to enable workers/employees to access the work site or vaccine clinics and transportation to/from airport to meet quarantine requirements (e.g., car rental/bus rental/taxi services).
- Innovative sanitization and disinfection techniques and technologies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Translation services for training, testing and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- New/upgraded COVID-19 related air circulation and air filtration systems, HVAC modifications or upgrades required for enclosed work environments.
- Vaccination costs not covered by the Government of Canada or the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is covered for the purpose of preventing the spread of disease.

How it works

Ontario farms and agri-food businesses must meet the eligibility

requirements according to the program category.

Eligible businesses can complete an electronic application form. After approval applicants can provide all required documentation to request reimbursement for eligible expenses.

Required supporting documentation includes a copy of the business' written COVID-19 workplace safety plan that documents steps in place to limit the spread of this disease throughout the operation. For more information about developing a COVID-19 workplace safety plan, you may wish to visit: [Develop your COVID-19 workplace safety plan.](#)

Applications will be assessed on a continuous basis, while funding is available or until February 15, 2022 at 11:59 pm.

For more information, contact us at: AgRuralPrograms@ontario.ca.

For program guidelines and application forms, visit the Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program website: Ontario.ca/AgWorkplaceProtection.