

Ontario small business programs – July 7, 2025

Small Business Enterprise Centres

Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBECs) offer entrepreneurs all the tools they need to start and grow their businesses at 54 convenient locations across the province.

These centres can help you start or grow a business. These centres offer:

- free consultations with a qualified business consultant
- internet and computer access for business research and planning
- review of business plans
- consultations through a lawyer or accountant referral service
- up-to-date information for entrepreneurs
- access to directories, trade indexes and books
- workshops and seminars
- guidance on licenses, permits, registration, regulations, and other documents you need to start a business.
- import and export information.
- information on patents, copyright, and trademarks
- mentoring and networking opportunities.

SBECs across the province are also responsible for administering two additional provincially funded programs, Starter Company Plus & Summer Company.

Starter Company Plus

Through Starter Company Plus, you can:

- Get one-on-one guidance from a Small Business Enterprise Centre advisor.
- Participate in business workshops, seminars, or networking events.
- Topics range from writing a business plan to budgeting to marketing campaigns.
- Talk to a mentor with experience in starting, expanding, or buying a small business.

You can also apply for a grant of up to \$5,000.

These supports are available if you want to start a new company, expand an existing company, or buy a business in Ontario.

[Futurpreneur](#)

Futurpreneur is the only national non-profit organization that provides financing, mentoring and resources to young entrepreneurs, helping them build a successful future while driving Canada's inclusive economic prosperity.

WE OFFER:

- Financing: Apply for up to \$60,000 to launch or buy a new business or to grow one that's been fully operating for less than 12 months.
- Mentoring: Get matched with an experienced mentor to help you build confidence and tackle your toughest challenges for up to two years.
- Resources: Learn key skills like business planning, marketing, and cash flow management through our online and in-person business resources.

[Digitalization Competence Centre](#)

The Digitalization Competence Centre (DCC) is Ontario's knowledge centre focused on driving the digital modernization of Ontario SMEs by:

- Supporting digital literacy through education, coaching and training to help SMEs understand the benefits of digital adoption and supporting them in the development of a Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan (DMAP) for their company.
- Accelerating digital adoption by providing SMEs with support to adopt new equipment and processes through the Technology Demonstration Program
- Enhancing technological capacity in both companies and sectors that have the potential for further digitization
- Supporting the commercialization of Made-in-Ontario technologies by connecting companies looking to adopt digital technologies with Ontario technology firms

Digitalization is redefining the future for companies. It is a critical factor in the success and growth of Ontario's companies, enabling them to release products to the market faster and reach the right customers, all while offering a near perfect experience. Through DCC, Ontario is placing its SMEs at the forefront of digital transformation, supporting them to adapt and thrive from this digital evolution.

DCC is a Government of Ontario initiative led by the [Ontario Centre for Innovation](#).

DCC has two program streams to support SMEs in the adoption and implementation of digital technology:

[DIGITAL MODERNIZATION AND ADOPTION PLAN \(DMAP\)](#)

Open for Applications

The Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan (DMAP) program supports Ontario SMEs to better understand their organization's technology needs, guide their digital transformation decision-making, and optimize their technology investments. Through this program, SMEs work with a Digital Adoption Consultant to generate a Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan tailored specifically to their organization's digital needs.

BEST SUITED FOR:

- SMEs looking to understand their digital needs and adopt and implement digital technologies to grow their company
- Ontario-based for-profit SMEs with between 1-499 employees

TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Open for Applications

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

BEST SUITED FOR:

- SMEs who have completed a DMAP project and are looking to adopt and implement the digital technology laid out in the DMAP
- Ontario-based for-profit SMEs with between 1-499 employees
- SMEs with at least \$500,000 of annual revenue in one of the last three tax years

Additionally, for your awareness, we also want to take this opportunity to share information about two programs operated by the federal government that you may be interested in.

Canada Digital Adoption Program – [Grow Your Business Online Grant](#)

Through this program, small business owners can receive a micro-grant worth up to \$2,400 to help get their business online, give their e-commerce presence a boost, or digitalize business operations. The CDAP program is a reimbursement grant. Successfully grant recipients must incur costs upfront after they have received conditional approval. Funds are paid out to the recipient after they can provide the OCC with the required proof of payment documentation. Grant recipients must commit to maintaining their digital adoption strategy for at least six months.

In addition, e-commerce advisors will be available to work with grant recipients to help identify their digital needs, provide links to digital resources, help with completing applications, and answering questions on the Grow Your Business Online program.

Eligibility

To be eligible for micro-grant funding, small businesses must meet all the following criteria:

- Must be a for-profit business (including for-profit social enterprises and co-operatives) in Ontario
- Must be a registered or incorporated business
- Must be a consumer-facing business
- Must be able to be accessed by consumers or provide in-person services to consumers
- Have at least one employee (other than the owner) OR had at least \$30,000 in annual revenue in the previous fiscal year. For Businesses in operation less than 80 weeks who have not yet filed their first year's taxes or received their CRA Notice of Assessment, the Business must have a gross revenue of at least \$30,000 in the last 12 months of operations or since incorporation/registration.
- Must commit to maintaining a digital adoption strategy for six months after participation in the program
- Must consent to participating in follow-up surveys, sharing information with the Government of Canada (ISED and Statistics Canada), and having the name of the business published as a recipient of funding

The following types of small businesses are ineligible:

- Corporate chains and franchises
- Registered charities and not-for profit organizations
- Representatives of multi-level marketing companies
- Real estate agents and brokerages
- Insurance agents and brokerages
- Mortgage agents and brokerages
- Investment advisors and brokerages
- Businesses engaging in online reselling or drop-shipping reliant third-party suppliers
- Wholesale or distribution businesses and manufacturers

[Application portal can be found here.](#)

[My Main Street](#)

My Main Street is a \$15-million investment to foster the stabilization and revitalization of main streets across southern Ontario. The program will offer streamlined direct-to-business supports and complementary programming for community projects that will encourage growth and economic prosperity.

[Business Sustainability Stream](#)

The My Main Street Business Sustainability stream will provide non-repayable contributions for businesses located on main streets across southern Ontario that provide a business case on how the funding will strengthen their existing capacity and support growth.

The Business Sustainability stream will provide up to \$6.5 million of non-repayable contributions up to \$20,000 in direct-to-business funding to support productivity enhancements for brick-and-mortar businesses located on main streets across southern Ontario.

Funding will be made available to businesses that employ between 1 and 50 staff, have demonstrated revenue growth, and provide a business case on how the funding will strengthen their existing capacity and support their growth.

[Community Activator Stream](#)

The My Main Street Community Activator stream will support local, high impact placemaking projects including events and festivals, community enhancements, and streetscape improvements designed to draw visitors and increase local vibrancy.

The My Main Street Community Activator provides support for community projects in southern Ontario designed to draw visitors and increase local vibrancy.

This program supports high impact placemaking projects that seek to revitalize neighborhoods and reimagine public spaces including main streets, downtown strips and plazas as vibrant and inclusive places that work for everyone.

Funding will be allocated to provide non-repayable contributions up to \$250,000 to support community not-for-profit projects.