

# Potential Funding Opportunities for the Middlesex-London Food Policy Council

March 28 2018

Below are a number of funding programs that have potential to support the work and various projects related to the Middlesex-London Food Policy Council:

## 1. Local Food Investment Fund – Now OPEN (but one intake only)

This program is part of the Greenbelt Fund but available across Ontario and not limited to the Greenbelt.

Three streams of funding:

- 1) Broader Public Sector Grant Stream to help increase local food purchases by public sector organizations and institutions such as Long-term Care facilities, hospitals, schools, etc.
- 2) Market Access Grant Stream to help increase access of small and mid-sized farms and processors to market
- 3) Local Food Literacy Grant Stream to help improve the understanding of where local food can be found, what local foods are available, and how to use them.

To apply, visit <http://www.greenbeltfund.ca/> to access the step-by-step instructions and grant guidelines. You must then register through the online grant portal at [https://greenbelt.fluxx.io/user\\_sessions/new](https://greenbelt.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new) .

Inquiries will be reviewed case by case, on a first come, first reviewed basis. **It is strongly suggested that applications be submitted in early April** or as early as possible to be considered. Successful applicants that are awarded funding will be notified by the end of June 2018.

The suggested project duration is six months with a start date of July 1 and project end date of December 31, 2018. If awarded funding, grant recipients must submit the final report, all eligible project-related invoices and expenses and complete the project by December 31, 2018.

Applications are accepted from legal entities only including community and not-for-profit organizations, farmers, primary producers, food processors, distributors, food service, retail, municipalities, industry associations, economic development associations, First Nations, Metis, Inuit and broader public sector organizations.

For more information, we encourage you to contact Franco Naccarato (fnaccarato@greenbeltfund.ca 905-875-2077 or 416-888-4896) or Sam Cheuk (scheuk@greenbeltfund.ca 416-960-0001 ext. 311). Alternatively, contact Sagal Dualeh (sdualeh@greenbeltfund.ca 416-960-0001 ext. 338) after April 25, 2018.

## 2. **Rural Economic Development (RED) Fund** - administered through OMAFRA

This program provides cost-share funding for projects that remove barriers to community economic development. With support of this program, rural communities (100,000 or less) are better positioned to attract investment, create jobs, enhance economic growth and make everyday life easier for rural Ontarians.

**Next intake period is from July 30<sup>th</sup> to September 28, 2018**

This funding is to help achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Increased ability to undertake evidence-based planning to identify priorities and measure economic performance
- Collaboration for economic growth
- Increased economic competitiveness and diversity
- Innovative communities
- Expansion of markets
- Creation and/or retention of jobs
- Attraction, development, or retention of a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce
- Support for provincial government priorities.

Applications are accepted from legal entities including community and not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, local service boards, First Nations, Metis, and Inuit in Ontario. Businesses and research institutions are not eligible for this program. RED supports both planning and implementation projects.

For more details on this program and to access the Guidelines and Application Form, visit [www.ontario.ca/REDprogram](http://www.ontario.ca/REDprogram) . If you have questions about this program, contact Vicki Luke, [vicki.luke@ontario.ca](mailto:vicki.luke@ontario.ca), 519-873-4083.

### **3. Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence**

**The 2018 program has just been launched and the application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2018.**

This program is designed to encourage the development of innovations that add value to existing products, support job creation, and drive economic growth on farms, within food processing businesses, and in rural communities.

Examples of innovation include but are not limited to:

- Improved business practice
- Response to consumer demands or expanding consumer tastes
- Collaborations or cross sector partnerships
- Environmental stewardship
- Energy and bio-economy
- Health and safety, or food safety and traceability, or
- Education and marketing of the agriculture and food industry to society

Recipients of this award will benefit from their business being promoted through this program across the province. The potential awards are as follows:

- One Premier's Award of \$75,000
- One Minister's Award of \$50,000
- Three Leaders in Innovation Awards of \$25,000
- 45 - \$5000 Provincial Awards

Eligible applicants include primary producers, processors, and agri-food organizations. Applications are received annually in late April with Awards ceremonies being held late fall.

A copy of the program Guidebook and Application Form, as well as information on previous award recipients are available online at [www.ontario/agrifoodinnovation](http://www.ontario/agrifoodinnovation) or phone 1-877-424-1300. You can also contact Vicki Luke if you have questions (contact information at the end of the report.)

### **4. Agri-Food Management Institute (AMI) - Speaker and Event Funding:**

AMI helps farm, agri-food and agri-business organizations and groups with financial support for business management speakers and events to bring business management experts to speak at events they are hosting.

For more information, visit: <http://takeanewapproach.ca/programs/>

## **5. Agriculture Youth Green Jobs Initiative:**

There are two streams with this program:

- Green Farms Stream: The Green Farms Stream funds internships for youth 30 years old or younger, including high school students to work on farms to support environmentally beneficial management activities. These internships can last up to 12 months.
- Green Internships Stream: The Green Internships Stream funds internships for post-secondary graduates to undertake environmentally beneficial activities, services or research in the agricultural sector but not restricted to farms. These internships must be a meaningful length and can last up to 12 months.

For more information, visit: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/list-of-programs-and-services/agricultural-youth-green-jobs-initiative/?id=1459879253586>

## **6. Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF)**

OTF cares about healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. They will invest in the following areas:

- 1) Active People - Fostering more active lifestyles
- 2) Connected People - Building inclusive and engaged communities together
- 3) Green People - Encouraging people to support a healthy and sustainable environment
- 4) Inspired People - Enriching people's lives through arts, culture and heritage
- 5) Promising Young People - Supporting the positive development of children and youth
- 6) Prosperous People - Enhancing people's economic wellbeing

There are three different deadlines:

- Grow Grant Application Deadline: May 16, 2018
- Capital Grant Application Deadline: August 15, 2018
- Transform Grant Application Deadline: November 7, 2018

For more information, visit OTF website: <https://otf.ca/?redirected=1>

## **7. Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) – Industry Canada/FedDev – The Business Help Centre of Middlesex**

The CFDC of Middlesex County works closely with community partners and provides partial funding for joint projects which encourage economic opportunity in Middlesex. Any local group interested in developing a community project may apply for a small grant under our CED “Special Projects” Funding Program

Funding may be possible for non-profit initiatives that:

- provide long-term economic benefit to Middlesex County
- do not create a dependency on government funds
- are jointly funded by other sources
- demonstrate the ability to create and/or maintain local jobs

In order to apply for a grant (of up to \$500.00), a formal CED Project Proposal must be submitted to the CED Officer for consideration.

For more information about Community Economic Development projects or Special Projects funding, call (519) 641-6100 or toll free at 1-866-205-1188. Link for more information: <https://www.thebusinesshelpcentre.ca/cfdc-middlesex-ced>

## **8. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation**

A national charity committed to protecting the environment and greening communities across Canada. Using the support of over 140,000 donors, this charity provides funds to environmental projects across the country. A variety of environmental initiatives are supported, however there is a primary focus on environmental education, urban greening and enhancing biodiversity and energy conservation. Your application should be submitted at least three months in advance of your project start date. For example, if you have a project/program that you would like to launch in November, you would need to submit your application by July. To ensure the timely review of your application, please refer to the following schedule. "September, 19, 2016: Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest.

The next deadline is July 15, 2018 and applicants will be notified October 2018.

For more information, visit: <http://fef.td.com/>

Email: [tdfef@td.com](mailto:tdfef@td.com) 1-800-361-5333

## 9. Grants Ontario Portal

Grants Ontario provides access to information on grants provided by the following Ministries and Directorates:

- Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade;
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport;
- Accessibility Directorate of Ontario; and
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Use the following link to access this portal:

<http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantsHome/>

Email: [GrantsOntarioCS@Ontario.ca](mailto:GrantsOntarioCS@Ontario.ca)

Report revised on March 28, 2018 by:

Vicki Luke, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Advisors, Regional Economic Development Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Email: [vicki.luke@ontario.ca](mailto:vicki.luke@ontario.ca)

Phone: 519-873-4083