

EnAbling Change Partnership Program 2010 - 2011 Province of Ontario Funding Program

Under the annual EnAbling Change Partnership Program, the government partners with organizations that have the vision, leadership and commitment to improve accessibility by providing funding for projects that will significantly improve accessibility across industries or sectors. The Province of Ontario is looking for organizations that want to be a leader in:

- improving accessibility for people with disabilities, and
- helping organizations meet the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) accessibility standards.

In order to support organizations and move towards an accessible Ontario by 2025, each year the criteria for eligible organizations will change as accessibility standards are implemented and compliance dates are established.

The Accessibility Standards for Customer Service (customer service standard) became law on January 1, 2008. All businesses or organizations with one or more employees that provide goods or services to the public or to other third parties in Ontario are legally required to comply with the requirements of the standard. **Private and non-profit organizations must comply with this standard by *January 1, 2012*.**

This year, priority will be given to projects that:

- have the capacity to support private sector and/or non-profit organizations in meeting the requirements of the customer service standard.
- have a wide reach across the province and across different sectors and/or target sectors that need additional support to meet the requirements of the customer service standard.
- support readiness for accessibility standards currently under development (transportation, information and communications, employment and the built environment).
- are creative and innovative in making Ontario a leader in accessibility.
- are timely and cost-effective, and benefit people and organizations beyond the project participants.
- involve others in implementation and design, include participation or input from people with disabilities, and generate experience and expertise that can be shared across groups.

Who is eligible for funding

The lead applicant must be:

- incorporated for at least one year
- a not-for-profit trade or service organization representing a sector, industry or profession
- a non-government organization, and
- located in Ontario.

The lead organization must have a minimum of \$2 million general liability insurance coverage. The lead organization may wish to partner with other organizations in their sector or industry that share the same commitment to improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

Who is not eligible for funding

The following organizations are not eligible to apply as the lead organization:

- public sector organizations
- private/for-profit organizations, and
- individuals.

However, they could participate as secondary partners and be involved in project design and/or implementation.

Costs eligible for funding

The following costs are eligible for ministry contribution:

- salaries for staff and consultants directly involved in project development and implementation
- production costs of deliverables
- costs related to project administration and coordination.

Costs not eligible for funding

The program does not fund:

- capital expenses such as equipment, furniture or building renovations (e.g., ramps, automatic door openers, etc.)
- accessibility audits
- operational expenses related to an organization's ongoing business activities (e.g., administrative and overhead costs such as rent, telephone and communication services); costs associated with ongoing programs and services, etc.
- therapy programs, counselling or support groups
- workplace accommodation or other accessibility measures already required under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The government is committing funds each year to support the EnAbling Change Partnership Program. The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario will:

- share project development and implementation costs up to 75 per cent of the total project
- contribute expertise required to make the project a success.

Partners must commit to contributing a minimum of 25 per cent of the total project cost. This contribution can be financial or in-kind through expertise, knowledge or human resources. Although there is no maximum funding amount per project, funding requests will be assessed for cost-effectiveness.

Deadline for submission: April 23, 2010

For more information and to apply for funding, please visit the Province's website at: <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/accessibility/EnablingChange/index.aspx>

Or by calling the EnAbling Change Partnership Program office at: Toll Free: 1-866-515-2025; TTY: 416-325-3408; TTY Toll-free: 1-800-268-7095.