

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Rural Economic Development (RED) Program has up to \$4.5 million funding per year for three years to help rural communities remove barriers to community development and promote economic growth to support sustainable rural economies and regions, while developing the capacity, tools and flexibility they need to become stronger, more prosperous communities.

The RED Program has two project streams:

1. Planning Stream: Rural, regional and community projects that help communities and regions build a foundation for economic growth and investment.
2. Implementation Stream: Strengthening rural and regional economic competitiveness to support the implementation of projects that have been identified through some form of evidence-based planning processes and to contribute to economic competitiveness.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Be a legal entity.

All applicants must share in the risks of the project, invest in the project, and have vested interest in completing the project.

Applicants must establish ability to complete the project and carry on needed work after the project is finished.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate the positive impact the project will have on a rural community.

For the purposes of the RED Program, 'rural' encompasses all of Ontario with the exception of the GTA and eight large urban areas. These large urban areas are the cities of Hamilton, Ottawa, Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay, London and Windsor, and the regions of Niagara and Waterloo. However, communities and lower tier municipalities, with a population of less than 100,000 within the GTA or within the eight large urban areas, will be considered rural.

FUNDING:

Projects are cost-shared, with the provincial government investing up to 50% of the project's eligible cost in most cases. Funding may be available up to 90% of the total eligible project costs, under special circumstances.

DEADLINES:

2013 Aug to Dec 31

2014 Jan1 to Dec 30

2015 Jan1 to Jun 30