

# WORKFORCE TRAINING INNOVATION FUND

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Victorian Government has implemented reforms to the training and TAFE system, *Skills First*, to improve the quality, stability and adaptability of the system and align it to industry needs, where 'real training leads to real jobs'.

The Workforce Training Innovation Fund (WTIF) is one of the targeted funding streams that will be delivered to support these reforms.

WTIF provides grant funding for industry and training provider partnerships to develop and deliver innovative strategies for improving training outcomes and the relevance of training to industry.

WTIF also has capacity to provide a limited amount of seed funding for activities such as scoping studies, research, consultancy and workshops, to support development of WTIF grant funding proposals. This excludes proposal writing services.

### WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR FUNDING UNDER WTIF?

WTIF will be open for seed funding applications and submissions of grant funding proposals from January 2017.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE WTIF GRANT?

WTIF grant funding is only available for industry and training provider partnerships. This can include Consortia.

### CAN I SUBMIT A WTIF GRANT FUNDING PROPOSAL IF I DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A PARTNERSHIP?

No. A partnership or Consortia is a requirement of WTIF. Facilitation support to assist in identifying and establishing an appropriate partnership is available.

### WHAT PROJECTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR WTIF?

Grants will be provided to support partnership projects that align with one or more of the four fund categories:

1. **Future Growth Sectors** – design of skills development approaches for new, emerging industries and Victorian Government priority sectors
2. **New training programs and methods** – innovation in course development, product design and delivery in support of VET sector improvement
3. **Workforce Training and Skills Development** – improving delivery of workplace skills to support business productivity
4. **Applied research** – research solving 'real-world' industry and business productivity challenges, that leads to innovation in training product development, design and delivery.

### WHAT TYPE OF TRAINING ACTIVITY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR WTIF FUNDING?

Grant funding proposals can include accredited or pre-accredited and non-accredited training. A link to future accreditation is required for pre-accredited and non-accredited training.

The training delivery portion will be funded through the *Skills First* Contestable Training Market, provided that relevant eligibility requirements and application processes are met.

### ARE THERE ANY PROJECTS THAT WTIF WILL NOT FUND?

Yes. WTIF will not fund new asset projects, redevelopments or refurbishments and projects or initiatives that require ongoing funding from WTIF.

## HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN I APPLY FOR UNDER WTIF?

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Funding through WTIF is available to projects of varying size, duration and complexity. Amounts for grants and seed funding are capped as follows:

- a maximum of \$5 million for grant funding proposals
- a maximum of \$50 000 for seed funding applications.

## ARE CO-CONTRIBUTIONS COMPULSORY UNDER WTIF?

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No. While co-contributions are not compulsory under WTIF, preference will be given to proposals that include a financial or in-kind contribution and that include a strategy for ongoing activity post funding.

## CAN I APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM OTHER LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES FOR THE SAME PROJECT?

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Yes. Any collaboration with other parties where funds can be leveraged to enhance the project is supported.

## IS ONGOING FUNDING AVAILABLE UNDER WTIF?

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No. Ongoing funding is not available. WTIF provides one-off seed funding for the development of grant proposals and one-off grants for delivery of projects.

The Department of Education and Training encourages the inclusion of a sustainability plan that addresses any long-term funding and sustainability considerations, as relevant to individual projects.

## IS THERE A MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM LENGTH OF PROJECT DURATION FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER WTIF?

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There is no minimum length of period for funded projects, the maximum project length is 24 months unless otherwise negotiated. Grants are available for projects of varying size and complexity. The Department will negotiate a funding agreement with successful grant applicants and projects must be implemented as per the agreed timelines.

## HOW WILL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS BE DETERMINED /ASSIGNED UNDER WTIF?

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The Victorian Government standard position on Intellectual Property is outlined in the core Terms and Conditions of the Victorian Common Funding Agreement. The standard position will apply unless otherwise negotiated. The ownership and licensing of intellectual property rights will be addressed in each funding agreement awarded to organisations that submit successful grant proposals.

The *Whole of Victorian Government Intellectual Property Policy* can be made available on request.

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR FUNDING UNDER WTIF?

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For grant funding and seed funding an application form must be completed and submitted electronically, the application process is outlined in the WTIF Guidelines.

Interested applicants should read the WTIF Guidelines before completing an application form.

To obtain a copy of the WTIF Guidelines and relevant forms, visit [www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au)

## WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

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Grant funding recipients will be required to report against output and outcomes indicators and measures as outlined in funding agreements. The WTIF Performance and Evaluation Framework will stipulate the reporting requirements and outline the expected evaluation activity for projects funded by WTIF.

## WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERESTED APPLICANTS?

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To ensure fairness and maintain the integrity of the application process, the Department cannot provide applicants with individual assistance to develop their applications for funding.

The Department will provide information and support to training providers, industry and relevant stakeholders to assist with understanding WTIF and engaging with the Fund.

For details about information sessions, visit [www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au) or email [wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON WTIF?

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For more information visit [www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au)

For general queries, information on facilitation support, or to register for email notifications and updates email [wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au)