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| Higher Education and Skills Group**Participation Branch Memo****Department of Education and Training** |

***NUMBER:*** *2017 / March / 28*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations ALL  | ACFE Board | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Adult Education Institutions | Learn Local Stakeholders | Participation Branch Staff |

**FROM: Eduard de Hue**, Acting Director - Participation Branch

**DATE:** 28 / 03 / 2017

**SUBJECT:** Workforce Training Innovation Fund

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* The Workforce Training Innovation Fund was officially launched by The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Training and Skills, on 19 January 2017

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The Workforce Training Innovation Fund (WTIF) is one of the targeted funding streams under *Skills First* that improves the quality, stability and adaptability of the Victorian training and TAFE System.

The Fund provides grants for partnerships between industry and training providers, to develop and deliver innovative strategies for improving training outcomes and the relevance of training to industry. A key focus of the Fund is strengthening partnerships between employers and the training and TAFE system to better respond to the skills needs of existing, new and emerging industries and the Victorian Government's priority sectors.

Innovative thinking and approaches will allow industry and training providers to challenge existing practices in skills development, training methods and product design. The fund will give opportunities for the joint exploration and application of new ideas and solutions that will address barriers to workplace productivity.

The Fund is open to all training providers that deliver training in Victoria, including Learn Local organisations. All applications must also include an industry partner. Grant proposals for a maximum of $5 million will be accepted for consideration, noting that funding will be made available proportional to the scale of the project. Seed funding of up to $50,000 is also available to support development of WTIF grant funding proposals. This seed funding may be used for activities such as scoping studies, research, consultancy and workshops.

Seed Funding Applications are assessed as they are received and Grant Funding Proposals will be assessed on a monthly basis starting end of March 2017.

For more information, including links to the Fund’s guidelines, submission templates and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), please go to: [www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.skillsfirst.vic.gov.au)

The Fund FAQs have recently been updated as attached, and these updates will appear on the website in the near future. If you have questions about this Fund after reviewing the FAQs, please email them to: wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au

Facilitation support is being offered through the new Regional Industry Engagement Unit within the Department’s Higher Education and Skills Group. This Unit comprises a number of Principal Regional Advisors (PRAs) who can assist you in the preparation of high quality applications, identifying linkages and potential partnerships. If you would like to meet with a PRA, please register your interest via this link: wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au, which contains the subject line **“PRA Meeting Request”**.