

2017 Programs and Services for Growth

Development Officers and New Venture Coaches at Alberta Agriculture and Forestry have created this document to assist agri-processing companies locate funding programs, services and support available.

Call 310-FARM (3276) to contact a Development Officer or a New Venture Coach today! They serve as the first point of contact for Alberta's growing and established agri-processing companies. In addition to having a thorough understanding of the agri-processing industry they can help you navigate through the numerous programs and services. For an updated version of this document, visit: www.agriculture.alberta.ca/cropextension

| Program Name | Type | Administered By | Description | Maximum Funding | Program End Date | Website |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|-----------------|------------------|--|
| Automation, Technology & Continuous Improvement | | | | | | |
| Agri-Innovation Program | Grant/ Interest-Free Loan | <i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> | The program is designed to accelerate the pace of innovation by supporting research and development activities in agri-innovations and facilitating the demonstration, commercialization and/or adoption of innovative products, technologies, processes, practices and services. The aim is to enhance economic growth, productivity, competitiveness, adaptability and sustainability of the Canadian agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector and assist in capturing opportunities for the sector in domestic and international markets. | \$10,000,000 | March, 2018 | www.agr.gc.ca |
| Productivity Benchmarking Tool | Resource | <i>Business Development Canada</i> | This is a free productivity benchmarking tool that helps processors find where they stand compared to other Canadian businesses in the same industry. It's the first step to making a business leaner, stronger and more profitable. The benchmarking tool calculates and displays the results online; a printable report that includes recommended readings and information on best practices, can then be downloaded from the website. | ----- | ----- | https://www.bdc.ca |
| GO Productivity | Resource | <i>GO Productivity</i> | GO Productivity offers a broad range of services that help companies identify and address gaps in productivity, maximize resources and be more efficient. The organization has own in-house productivity experts as well as a vast network of resources to ensure that whatever the productivity challenge a business faces, they have the capacity to meet it. | ----- | ----- | http://goproductivity.ca/ |
| Food Safety | | | | | | |
| Food Safety Resources and Assistance | Resource | <i>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF)</i> | AF has many excellent resources to assist food processors in developing, improving and implementing a food safety system (i.e., GMP, HACCP or GFSI Benchmarked systems) to meet the requirements of current customers and help gain new customers. These resources include coaching and guidance from experienced Food Safety Specialists, a food safety "how to" manual, personnel training materials, food safety DVDs, template record keeping forms, and more. Most resources are on-line, but don't forget to contact a Food Safety Specialist for assistance! | ----- | ----- | www.foodsafety.alberta.ca |
| Online Food Safety Training & Management System | Resource | <i>Alberta Food Processors Association</i> | This program enables Alberta food processors to train employees within the facility on seven food safety modules, administer quizzes and present certificates upon completion of the training. It will also give HACCP Coordinators the tools to manage employee training and prerequisite programs to ensure they are current and ready for audits. Technical support is also available to assist processors in entering employee names into the database, downloading SOPs and training to use the system. | ----- | ----- | www.afpa.com |
| Food Safety Training and Consulting | Resource | <i>Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA)</i> | AFPA can train a group of employees on HACCP or other food safety topics in a public course setting or in a customized course at their facility. Customized courses minimize potential expenses and time away from production. It also gives a team approach to training, which many companies prefer. Food Safety consulting is also available. | ----- | ----- | www.afpa.com |

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| Investment / Business Planning / Access to Capital | | | | | | |
| Agriculture Borrowing Program | Financing/ Loan | <i>Alberta Treasury Bank (ATB Financial)</i> | ATB Financial offers financing to any business engaged in the Agri Food Value Added chain. Products specific to agri-processors include: term loans for equipment, real estate, working capital; operating loans to fund day to day operating expenses secured by accounts receivable and inventory; and access to a financial advisor via ATB Investor Services or Ag Centre of Expertise to assist with investment and insurance needs. ATB has a team of experts - Ag Centre of Expertise(ACE) to connect business with people who know the industry. | ----- | ----- | www.atb.com |
| Agribusiness & Agri-Food Financing | Financing/ Loan | <i>Farm Credit Canada (FCC)</i> | FCC's Agri-business and Agri-Food Program provides specialized financial services to food processors and manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors, input providers, equipment manufacturers and dealers. It offers term and cash flow financing as well as venture capital options. | ----- | ----- | www.fcc-fac.ca |
| Alberta Investor Tax Credit (AITC) | Tax Credit | <i>Alberta Economic Development and Trade</i> | The 3-year AITC is applicable across sectors, offering a 30% tax credit to investors who provide capital to Alberta small businesses doing research, development or commercialization of new technology, new products or new processes. Investments made as of April 14, 2016, may be retroactively eligible for the AITC. An investor can either invest directly in an Eligible Business Corporation (EBC), or invest in an Approved Venture Capital Corporation (VCC). | Tax credit for up to 30% | ----- | https://www.alberta.ca |
| Alberta Indian Financial Services | Financing / Loan | <i>Alberta Indian Investment Corporation(AIIC)</i> | AIIC provides interest-bearing loans to First Nation entrepreneurs for the purpose of establishing, acquiring, diversifying or expanding a business. In some cases, equity financing may also be available. Interest rates are competitive. Loans are generally for periods of up to 5 years. To be eligible for applicants must be a Status Indian who has resided in Alberta for at least one year; if a corporation or partnership, the Status Indian must own at least 51% of any shares, participate more than 51% in profits, and above all, must be active in managing the business. | ----- | ----- | http://www.aiicbusiness.org |
| Business Planning | Resource | <i>Business Link</i> | Business Link is a non-profit organization that helps Alberta entrepreneurs start their own businesses. The Business Link provide the tools to make business ideas a reality, and connect with relevant small business resources to help bring ideas to life. | ----- | ----- | http://businesslink.ca |
| Business Loans, Advisory Services and Capital | Loans / Resources / Capital | <i>Business Development Bank of Canada</i> | The Business Development Bank of Canada is a financial institution owned by the Government of Canada. It offers business loans and advisory services to help Canadian businesses grow, both at home and abroad. Through its subsidiary—BDC Capital, also offers a full spectrum of specialized financing, including venture capital, equity as well as growth and business transition capital. Financing is available to expand production, purchase new equipment or for a special project. | ----- | ----- | www.bdc.ca |
| Capital Investor Tax Credit (CITC) | Tax Credit | <i>Alberta Economic Development and Trade</i> | The CITC is a 2-year program that provides a non-refundable tax credit valued at 10% of a corporation's eligible capital expenditures, up to \$5 million. The CITC encourages companies to make timely capital investments by returning a percentage of the company's costs, including the purchase of machinery, equipment and buildings. The CITC can only be claimed when the capital purchased is in use and the firm is earning profits and paying taxes. | Tax credit for up to 10% | ----- | https://www.alberta.ca |
| Family Business Resources | Resource | <i>Business Families Foundation</i> | The Business Family Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organization established to support, help and empower business families to ensure their sustainability and harmony for generations to come. It delivers relevant, interactive and engaging education on important topics relevant to business families both online and through face-to-face settings. The foundation also nurtures a network of partners that help make our learning accessible globally and trains academics & advisors to better cope with business family issues. | ----- | ----- | http://businessfamilies.org |
| Alberta Women Entrepreneurs Program | Loan | <i>Alberta Women Entrepreneurs (AWE)</i> | AWE is a not-for profit organization dedicated to enabling women to build successful businesses. AWE connects our clients to the people and resources needed at all stages of business growth. Repayable loans of up to \$150,000 are available to businesses that are 51% owned/operated and controlled by a woman. | \$150,000 | ----- | www.awebusiness.com |
| Canada Small Business Financing Program | Loan | <i>Industry Canada</i> | Under the program, the Government of Canada makes it easier for small businesses to get loans from financial institutions by sharing the risk of lenders. Companies must be small businesses operating for-profit in Canada, with a gross annual revenue of less than \$10 million. | \$1,000,000 | ----- | www.ic.gc.ca |

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| Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research Program (CECR) | Network / Resource Loan | <i>Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada</i> | The CECR program bridges the gap between innovation and commercialization. The program matches clusters of research expertise with the business community to share the knowledge and resources that bring innovations to market faster. | ----- | ----- | www.nce-rce.gc.ca |
| Community Future Business Loans | Loan | <i>Community Futures Alberta</i> | Community Futures Alberta provides rural Alberta companies flexible and affordable loan products that are specifically designed to support small business growth, and range from \$500 to \$150,000. Eligible loans include start-up, new market expansion, or technology or process update funds. Each loan is tailored to meet the client's business needs, and loan decisions are made locally and quickly. They can offer free business advice and counselling, low cost business coaching and other business development programs. | \$150,000 | ----- | www.albertacf.com |
| District Ventures Business Accelerator | Resource | <i>District Ventures LP</i> | District Ventures is a leading-edge accelerator connecting early-stage companies to top entrepreneurs, investors and commercialization support; it will also fund Canadian companies that are commercially viable but are challenged to expanding. Companies participating in the Accelerator will be offered business development support (e.g., marketing, distribution) and access to office space. | ----- | ----- | www.districtventures.ca |
| Futurpreneur Canada Start-Up Program | Loan | <i>Futurpreneur Canada</i> | This program provides start-up financing of up to \$15,000, over 5 years. Furthermore, the Business Development Bank of Canada teamed up with Futurpreneur Canada to provide entrepreneurs with up to an additional \$30,000 to get their businesses off the ground. | \$45,000 | ----- | www.futurpreneur.ca |
| Pre-Commercial Investment Program | Loan | <i>AVAC Ltd.</i> | Investment funds are targeted at early stage value add agri-business companies and agriculture technology. Verdex Capital invests in unique agricultural technologies business and provides early stage to later stage financing to innovative companies that can demonstrate a robust plan to address large commercial market needs. Accelerate Fund is an early stage, angel co-investment fund available to Alberta technology companies to secure additional funding for their current angel round. | ----- | ----- | www.avactd.com |
| Small Business Assistance | Resource | <i>Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta (CDÉA).</i> | CDÉA provides a wide range of consulting services, procedures pertaining to and coaching of project managers, designers, entrepreneurs, and business leaders. The CDÉA makes available to the French-speaking business community a hub of skills to promote the development of economic activities in Alberta. | ----- | ----- | www.lecdea.ca |
| Value Added & Agri-Business Program | Financing/ Loan | <i>Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC)</i> | This program is designed to provide enterprises with suitable financing to start, develop and grow their businesses. The loan can be used to start, expand, purchase or upgrade facilities, equipment, or other capital assets needed for your business. It also covers working capital expenditures, including training costs that support new or expanded operations or products for value added or agri-business enterprises and change of ownership. | \$5,000,000 | ----- | www.afsc.ca |
| Nutrition / Labelling | | | | | | |
| Canada's Regulatory System for Food with Health Benefits | Resource | <i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> | This website is a starting point for companies wanting to promote the health benefits of their products. It will help you better understand and navigate Canada's food regulatory system and point you to important resources. | ----- | ----- | www.agr.gc.ca |
| Regulatory Readiness Decision Model | Resource | <i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> | The Regulatory Readiness: A decision Model for Canadian Food Products helps industry navigate the regulatory environment for Canadian food products and take advantage of market opportunities. It synthesizes a complex array of regulations and guidance into six key questions to consider prior to launching a new food product. | ----- | ----- | www.agr.gc.ca |
| Food Labelling for Industry | Resource | <i>Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)</i> | The CFIA Industry Labelling Tool is the food labelling reference for all food inspectors and stakeholders in Canada. The tool provides information on food products that require a label, general principles for labelling and advertising and a labelling requirements checklist. | ----- | ----- | www.inspection.gc.ca |

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| Occupational Health and Safety | | | | | | |
| Alberta Occupational Health and Safety | Resource | <i>Government of Alberta</i> | Alberta Occupational Health and Safety works in consultation with industry to help prevent worker injuries and illnesses by providing measures and information for taking action. It includes resources such as publications on legislation and other topics, educational materials on how to work safely and stay healthy and e-learning programs. | ----- | ----- | https://work.alberta.ca |
| Certificate of Recognition Program | Resource | <i>Alberta Food Processors Association</i> | This program is a key component of Alberta Human Services Partnerships program. A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is issued to employers who have successfully implemented a workplace health and safety management system that meets partnership standards. Benefits of obtaining a COR include: minimized accident costs, improved worker productivity, a safer workplace and a possible 5% to 20% rebate for WCB premiums. | ----- | ----- | www.afpa.com |
| Small Employer Certificate of Recognition | Resource | <i>Alberta Food Processors Association</i> | The Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR) program provides an option for employers with a small number of workers to develop a safety management system and achieve a Certificate of Recognition (COR). The program is designed to meet the application and training needs of employers with 10 or fewer employees. A SECOR is issued to an employer whose health and safety program meets the partnerships standards. Small employers with a SECOR are eligible to receive a 5% to 20% rebate on their WCB premiums. | ----- | ----- | www.afpa.com |
| Workplace Health & Safety Program | Resource | <i>Alberta Food Processors Association</i> | The Alberta Food Processors Association offers extensive educational courses. The following courses are instructed by qualified industry experts: Health & Safety Program Building, Internal Auditor Training, Hazard Assessment, WHMIS Train the Trainer, Incident & Accident Investigation, and Roles & Responsibility for Managers and Supervisors. | ----- | ----- | www.afpa.com |
| Research & Development / Innovation / Marketing | | | | | | |
| Alberta Bio Future Program | Grant | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | The purpose of this program is to expand a competitive, sustainable and profitable bioindustrial sector (materials, chemicals and energy) through an integrated program with a strong industry focus. Focus will primarily be on projects that add value to biomass in agriculture and forestry, and create new and improved bioindustrial products and bioindustrial technologies. Food, feed and pharma products are excluded from the program. Funding is available in three strategic priority areas: discovery and developmental research, testing and commercialization, and equipment utilization. | \$100,000 | March, 2019 | www.bio.albertainnovates.ca |
| Applied Research or Technology for Product Development Program | Grant | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | The program provides funding for applied research and product development leading to new or improved food ingredients or bioactives, food products, beverages, supplemented foods, and/or natural health products (NHP's)/nutraceuticals that are derived from Alberta crop or livestock commodities. It helps bring together industry applicants with academic researchers in a unique initiative that supports development of healthier ingredients, food products, beverages, and NHP's that will contribute to increased public trust (both ethical and environmental) by ensuring that research and innovation activities result in environmentally friendly, sustainable processes. | \$100,000 | September, 2017 | www.bio.albertainnovates.ca |
| Agri-Marketing Program | Grant/ Interest-Free Loan | <i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> | The AgriMarketing Program supports the agriculture industry by creating and maintaining access to markets and taking advantage of market opportunities. Projects are supported under different funding streams: The Small and Medium Size Enterprise (SME) component supports small and medium-sized enterprises to undertake promotional and market development activities in markets other than Canada. The Market Development (MD) stream supports Not-for-profit organizations to develop and implement long-term market development strategies. The Assurance Systems (AS) stream supports non-for profit industry organizations and academic institutions in developing national assurance systems or standards for food safety, animal and plant health, market attribute/quality and traceability. | \$250,000 (SME) \$2.5mil /year (MD) \$1 Mil/project (AS) | March, 2018 | www.agr.gc.ca |
| Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator | Resource | <i>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</i> | This is a multi-tenant, CFIA registered facility with eight private, fully serviced processing suites dedicated to assisting food processors in the scale-up and commercialization of food products and technologies leading to successful establishment of their own enterprises. | ----- | ----- | www.agriculture.alberta.ca |

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| Alberta Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Credit | Tax Credit | <i>Government of Alberta</i> | The provincial tax credit program benefits businesses of all sizes and in all sectors that conduct research and development that leads to new, improved or technologically-advanced products or processes. The credit is for all expenditures incurred after December 31, 2008 that are also eligible for the federal Scientific Research and Experimental Development Credit (SR&ED). The Alberta SR&ED tax credit is over and above the federal SR&ED credit, helping the research and development investments made by Alberta companies go farther. | Tax credit of up to 10% | ----- | http://eae.alberta.ca/ |
| Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP) | Procurement | <i>Canada Business Network</i> | The BCIP program helps Canadian companies of all sizes to move their inventions, new technologies or processes that are not available in the marketplace from the laboratory to the market. Through the BCIP, the Government of Canada buys pre-qualified goods and services and moves these late-stage research and development innovations (Level 6 of Technology Readiness Level) to federal departments for testing. After testing, the BCIP provides feedback to suppliers on the performance of their products or services. | \$500,000 | continous intake | http://canadabusiness.ca |
| Canadian Food Innovators Cluster | Grant | <i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada delivered by Canadian Food Innovators</i> | This is a five year program funding to support for science-based research that will accelerate the pace of innovation to grow Canada's food and beverage processing sector. Lead applicants can be food and beverage processing firms, food safety solution providers, technology providers, packaging and other input suppliers. Eligible activities include targeted applied science research and/or development activities, research relating to product, practice, process and/or technology development and projects that pilot, test solutions and /or explore/adapt technologies. | ----- | September, 2017 | http://canadianfoodinnovators.ca |
| Connectica | Resource | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | Connectica is a web portal designed to help users connect with Alberta's research and innovation network. It is the perfect place to find programs, services, facilities or events that meet specific needs. Connectica facilitates introductions between stakeholders, researchers and entrepreneurs, and helps to bridge the gap between Alberta's research organizations, universities and publicly-funded innovation support services. | ----- | ----- | https://www.connectica.ca |
| Food Processing Development Centre | Resource | <i>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</i> | The Food Processing Development Centre is a modern, fully equipped pilot plant and product development laboratory facility. It is staffed with experienced food scientists, engineers and technologists. Centre services are designed to strengthen and expand the capability of Alberta's food processors to meet the challenges of the marketplace through application of new technology and the development of new or improved products and processes. | ----- | ----- | www.agriculture.alberta.ca/fpdc |
| Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) | Resource/ Grant | <i>National Research Council(NRC)</i> | This program supports small and medium-sized enterprises in Canada to build their technology and innovation capabilities. Industrial Technology Advisors work with small and medium-sized enterprises on-site to assess needs and design solutions which can be tailored to each business. NRC-IRAP offers direct technical assistance, access to the latest technological advances, expertise, facilities and resources. NRC-IRAP may also provide cost-shared financing of innovative technical projects to qualified firms. | ----- | ----- | www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca |
| Industry R&D Associate Program | Grant | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | The Industry R&D Associates Program is designed to provide Alberta's technology-based SMEs with research expertise in order to accelerate business ideas and to support the expansion of highly trained personnel in research and industry settings in Alberta. Eligible activities include: pre-competitive research leading to the Proof-of-Concept of an inventive idea; prototype development leading to a demonstration product for technology validation, market capture and new investment opportunities; demonstration and feasibility investigation of innovative technologies leading to new or enhanced products and processes to meet market needs or demands. | \$149,000 | ----- | www.innotechalberta.ca |
| Industry Commercialization Associates | Grant | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | The purpose of this program is to stimulate the commercialization of novel technological and/or business solutions, while generating material risk-weighted returns on investment. Eligible activities include pre-competitive research focusing on a targeted or applied research question leading to the Proof-of-Concept of an inventive idea; prototype development leading to a demonstration product for technology validation, market capture and new investment opportunities; demonstration and feasibility investigation of innovative technologies leading to new or enhanced products and processes to meet market needs or demands; | \$224,000 | continous intake | www.innotechalberta.ca |

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| Market Development Team | Resource | <i>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</i> | The Market Development Team brings experience in retail, food service, alternative markets such as c-stores and into the world of packaging and understanding consumer insights. This also includes innovation, broker relations, go-to-market plans and merchandising of products. The team works with agri-food processors as they move through the stages of Start-up, Selling, Establishing your business and Growing your capacity. Contact your Industry Development Officer and ask for the Market Development Team. | ----- | ----- | www.agriculture.alberta.ca |
| Matching Investment Fund (MIF) | Grant | <i>Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC)</i> | The MIF is designed to help eligible companies and Food Technology Centres with product development initiatives that help stimulate demand for Canadian dairy products and ingredients. 50% of the eligible costs of the project may be funded by the CDC, up to a maximum of \$150,000 (before taxes). Of this amount, a maximum of \$25,000 (before taxes) can be allocated to consultation activities. Projects which emphasize the use of solids non-fat ingredients will be given priority attention under the CDC MIF and may be eligible for an increased level of funding. | \$150,000 | ----- | www.milkingredients.ca |
| Micro-Voucher and Voucher Programs | Grant | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | The Micro-Voucher Program is designed to support technologies in the early developmental stages with a quick and flexible financial solution to fund Alberta SMEs to retain one Service or Product Provider to assist with early start up development activities. The Voucher Program is designed to support technologies in the mid-to-late developmental stages but may include some early developmental stages; it is intended to fund Alberta SMEs to work in collaboration with up to three Service or Product Providers to advance the technology closer to commercialization. | up to \$10,000 (Micro-Voucher) \$10,000 to \$100,000 (Voucher) | continous intake | www.innotechalberta.ca |
| Product Demonstration Program | Grant | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | The Product Demonstration Fund (PDF) assists Alberta businesses in the commercialization phase of their development. PDF funding is in the form of a 50/50 matching non-repayable grant, typically ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000. This fund will help businesses demonstrate their new products or services in a real-life, end-user environment. | \$300,000 | ----- | www.innotechalberta.ca |
| Scientific Research & Experimental Development Tax Incentive Program (SR&ED) | Tax Credit | <i>Canada Revenue Agency</i> | This program is a federal tax incentive program that encourages Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct research and development (R&D) in Canada that will lead to new, improved or technologically-advanced products or processes. Companies can apply for SR&ED investment tax credits for expenditures such as wages, materials, machinery, equipment, some overhead and SR&ED contracts. | Tax credit of up to 35% | ----- | www.cra-arc.gc.ca |
| Strategic Innovation Fund | Repayable and Non-repayable Contribution | <i>Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada</i> | Strategic Innovation Fund supports four streams of activities: streams 1 (Encourage research and development that will accelerate technology transfer and commercialization of innovative products, processes and services), stream 2 (Facilitate the growth and expansion), and stream 3 (Attract and retain large scale investments) are for small, medium and large sized for-profit corporations. Stream 4 is for consortiums of universities, colleges, research institutions, for-profit and not for profit entities. Eligible costs are non-recurring costs specifically related to the project, including: direct labor, consultants, materials and equipment, land and buildings. The cost share for streams 1-3 is based on the type of activities proposed and will not exceed 50%. | Project dependant | continous intake | www.canada.ca/innovation-science-economic-development |
| Western Innovation Initiative (WINN) | Grant | <i>Western Economic Diversification Canad</i> | WINN offers repayable contributions to small and medium enterprises proposing to commercialize a new technology, product, process or service in Western Canada. The program assists with up to 50% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$3.5M/project or \$7.5M to one organization. Applications are accepted during two intake periods/year. Only the strongest applications demonstrating the highest merit and best fit with WINN objectives receive funding. | \$3,500,000 | ----- | www.wd-deo.gc.ca |

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| Global Trade | | | | | | |
| Alberta Export Expansion Package | Grant | <i>Alberta Economic Development and Trade</i> | The program supports small and medium size enterprises to export to new international markets. The package consists of three new programs: Export Support Fund, Global Buyers and Investors, and Export Readiness Programs (includes Export Readiness Micro- Voucher Program). The Export Support Fund is designed to ease the cost necessary to enter new international markets. Agriculture and agri-food organizations are NOT eligible for this program but environmental products/services and life sciences are. | \$20,000/year | ----- | https://www.alberta.ca |
| Canada Brand | Resource | <i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> | The Canada Brand is designed to give the Canadian food and agriculture industry a competitive advantage, through a common strategy and set of tools. The objective is to raise the profile of and help differentiate Canadian food products from the competition in domestic or international markets. The strategy and its elements are free to use and were developed in collaboration with industry and the provincial governments. | ----- | ----- | www.marquecanadabrand.agr.gc.ca |
| Canadian Trade Commissioner Services | Resource | <i>Global Affairs Canada</i> | The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service offers an extensive network of international business contacts and hands-on knowledge of international markets. In 161 offices around the world and across Canada, trade commissioners provide expert advice and problem-solving skills—whether you export, partner, or invest abroad. | ----- | ----- | http://tradecommissioner.gc.ca |
| CanExport | Grant | <i>Global Affairs Canada</i> | The CanExport program helps companies that are exporting and/or planning to export. This \$50M fund is administered through the Trade Commissioner Service and provides matching funds to help Canadian small and medium enterprises to explore a new market (i.e. does not apply to any country where company had even one sale within the past 24 months). Projects could include market research, market activities in the export market, promotional efforts, promotion of language training or other educational services. | \$99,999.99/ company/ project | ----- | https://international.gc.ca |
| Export Credit Insurance and Trade Financing | Financing / Resource / Loans | <i>Export Development Canada (EDC)</i> | EDC is an export credit agency that supports and develops Canada's export trade by helping Canadian companies respond to international business opportunities. EDC provide insurance and financial services, bonding products and small business solutions to Canadian exporters and investors and their international buyers. It also supports Canadian direct investment abroad and investment into Canada. | ----- | ----- | www.edc.ca |
| Export Readiness Micro-Voucher Program | Grant | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | The Export Readiness Micro-Voucher Program is a 2 year program initiated in April 2017 in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade to provide funding to Alberta SMEs that are interested in expansion into international markets. The purpose of the Program is to offset the cost of developing an international market assessment/business plan, and to evaluate the risks and benefits of exporting prior to entering new global markets. | \$10,000 | ----- | www.innotechalberta.ca |
| International Relations and Marketing Team | Resource / Grant | <i>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</i> | The International Relations and Marketing team provides advice on: preparing to export, customized market intelligence, buyer-seller connections, and international trade opportunities. Ongoing initiatives include: international trade shows, in-market promotion, incoming buyers programs, and export workshops and seminars. | ----- | ----- | www.agriculture.alberta.ca |
| Sustainability | | | | | | |
| Business, Non-Profit, and Institutional Energy Savings Program | Grant | <i>Energy Efficiency Alberta(EEA)</i> | This program offers incentives to encourage organizations to choose high-efficiency products. Once an organization has installed an approved high-efficiency heating or lighting eligible product, it can apply for the rebate. Eligible products are listed on the EEA's website. Individual businesses are eligible (including agri-food processing) with the exception of large emitters (as defined under the Alberta's Specified Gas Emitters Regulations). | ----- | ----- | https://www.energycalberta.ca |
| Emmissions Reduction Alberta Funding for SMEs | Grant | <i>Emmissions Reduction Alberta(ERA)</i> | ERA in partnership with Sustainable Development Technology Canada offeres a unique joint funding opportunity to Canadian clean technology innovators and entrepreneurs. Eligible projects include advancing pre-commercial technology for GHG reduction with a current Technology Readiness Level from 4-7, and includes prototype development, field pilots, and commercial demonstration projects. Projects may take place anywhere in Canada, but applicants must demonstrate how the proposed project will result in GHG reductions, commercialization, enterprise growth, and economic growth in Alberta and Canada. | 10,000,000 / project | ----- | http://www.eralberta.ca |

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|--|-----------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------|--|
| Green Municipality Fund (GMF) | Grant and Low Interest Loan | <i>Federation Of Canadian Municipalities</i> | GMF supports partnership of both public and private sector to reach higher standard of air, water and soil quality. There must be a collaborative relationship between an organization and the municipal government regarding the environmental initiative to successfully obtain GMF funding. It supports three types of initiatives: grants to develop plans, grants to conduct feasibility studies and pilot projects and low interest loans, in combination with grants, to implement capital projects. Grants cover up to 50% of eligible costs. | \$175,000 for plans and feasibility studies \$350,000 for pilot projects. | Renewed Annually | http://www.fcm.ca |
| Leveraging Efficiencies, Accelerating Profit (LEAP) | Resource | <i>Alberta Food Processors Association</i> | LEAP is AFPA's new business sustainability program that is designed to strengthen competitiveness, create efficiencies, enhance productivity, reduce costs and improve revenues. LEAP will connect food processors with the proper tools, training and support, including: industry-leading expertise, one-on-one coaching, on-site assessments, workshops, access to grants (for further training, retrofits, assessment or pilot projects), partnerships with industry, government and communications. | ----- | ----- | www.afpa.com |
| On-line Sustainability Portal | Resource | <i>Provision Coalition</i> | Provision Coalition is the leading voice of sustainability for the food and beverage industry in Canada. The on-line portal is free for all food and beverage manufacturers and includes web-based benchmarking tools and resources: self-assessment survey, key performance indicators scorecard, environmental benchmarking tool, consultant and funding databases, and case studies. | ----- | ----- | www.provisioncoalition.com |
| Office of Energy Efficiency | Resource | <i>Natural Resources Canada</i> | The Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) is mandated to strengthen and expand Canada's commitment to energy efficiency in order to help address the Government of Canada's policy objectives. The OEE offers a variety of resources, including workshops for professionals, statistics and analysis, awards and hundreds of free publications. | ----- | ----- | www.nrcan.gc.ca |
| SD Tech Fund™ | Grant | <i>Sustainable Development Technology Canada</i> | The SD Tech Fund™ is designed to support the development and pre-commercial demonstration of cleantech solutions. Its aim is to increase each solution's chances of successfully making it to the marketplace, and help Canadian entrepreneurs carry out their innovation efforts within Canada | ----- | ----- | www.sdtc.ca |
| Workforce Development | | | | | | |
| Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative | Grant | <i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> | The Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative supports employers who wish to hire youth to undertake environmentally beneficial activities on their farm; or employers who employ youth in the agriculture sector to undertake environmentally beneficial activities. Farm operators could receive up to a maximum of \$10,000 per intern to implement projects that are environmentally beneficial. Employers in the agricultural sector but not directly on farm could receive up to a maximum of \$16,000 per intern to undertake environmental activities, services or research that will benefit the agriculture sector. | \$10,000 \$16,000 | First-come First-served | www.agr.gc.ca |
| Agri-Industry Workforce Development Program | Grant | <i>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</i> | This program provides assistance to address specific workforce issues in agricultural production and agri-processing sectors. Financial assistance is provided to assist Alberta agri-business managers to assess and adopt technologies and processes which will increase worker productivity, reduce worker turnover through the development of retention strategies and recruit workers domestically as well as outside of Canada. 80% of eligible expenses incurred by a successful applicant in completing the approved project per applicant in a fiscal year (April to March). | \$25,000 | Renewed Annually | www.agriculture.alberta.ca/workforce |
| Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program | Resource | <i>Citizenship and Immigration Canada & Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training & Labour</i> | The Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program is a federal-provincial agreement designed to assist employers to facilitate the permanent immigration process to retain qualified temporary foreign workers already working in Alberta. | ----- | ----- | www.albertacanada.com |
| Industry Commercialization Associate Program | Grant | <i>Alberta Innovates</i> | The Industry Commercialization Associates Program is designed to increase business management and marketing expertise in Alberta's technology-based SMEs by enabling them to recruit skilled business professionals. Eligible activities include: manufacturing analysis and planning; product validation; exploring new product market opportunities; marketing and sales strategies; partnership activities including engaging clients, licensees, distributors, etc. and financial strategy; | \$224,000 | ----- | www.innotechalberta.ca |

Programs and Services

| Program Name | Type | Administered By | Description | Maximum Funding | Program End Date | Website |
|---|------------|---|--|---|------------------|--|
| Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit | Tax Credit | <i>Canada Revenue Agency</i> | The federal incentive program is designed to help employers offset the cost of hiring and training employees who have entered into an apprenticeship contract. Employers can take advantage of a non-refundable tax credit equal to 10% of the eligible salaries and wages paid to apprentices in their first two years. Any unused credit may be carried back three years and carried forward 20 years. | \$2,000 | ----- | www.cra-arc.gc.ca |
| Canada-Alberta Job Grant | Grant | <i>Government of Alberta</i> | The Canada-Alberta Job Grant is an employer-driven training program. This means that employers decide on who gets training and what type of training may be needed for new and existing employees. Employers must use a third-party training provider to deliver the formal training either onsite, online, or in a classroom setting. The grant will cover a maximum of two-thirds of the training cost. | \$10,000 per trainee or \$300,000 per company | ----- | www.albertacanada.com |
| Canada Summer Jobs | Grant | <i>Service Canada</i> | Canada Summer Jobs provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students. It is designed to focus on local priorities, while helping both students and their communities. It provides assistance to small businesses (fifty or fewer employees) to hire young people aged 15 to 30 years who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year. | 50% of minimum hourly wage for private sector | Renewed Annually | www.servicecanada.gc.ca |
| Career Edge Program | Grant | <i>Career Edge</i> | This program is for employers seeking qualified workers and for recent immigrants seeking professional level positions in their fields of expertise. Career Bridge offers paid internships of 4, 6, 9 or 12 months for recent immigrants. It can help employers fill a wide range of professional and managerial positions while minimizing recruiting costs and risks. | ----- | ----- | www.careeredge.ca |
| Great People = Growing Profits Toolkit | Resource | <i>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</i> | This online toolkit for employers features practical tools to help immediately address labour shortage issues. The toolkit offers recruitment and retention strategies with tools and templates that can be used independently or incorporated into your current business processes. The toolkit can be accessed online or by contacting your Development Officer for a free CD copy. | ----- | ----- | www.agric.gov.ab.ca |
| Funding for Hiring-Career Focus Program | Grant | <i>Food Processing HR Council</i> | This program offers food processing employers an opportunity to receive a wage subsidy to hire skilled youth and access some of the skills that can further strengthen the sector: business, marketing, design, processing, engineering or other technical abilities. Eligible participants must be post-secondary graduates in food processing or other related disciplines. The program will reimburse 50% of the eligible wages and related expenses to hire a post-secondary student for a placement between four and 12 months. | \$15,000 | ----- | www.fundingforhiring.com |
| Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) | Grant | <i>Government of Alberta</i> | STEP is a 4 - 16 week wage subsidy program that provides funding to eligible Alberta employers to hire high school or post-secondary students into summer jobs from May to August. A standardized wage subsidy of \$7.00/hour to a maximum of 37.5 hours/week will be provided to approved applicants. | based on size and scope of the organization. | Renewed Annually | www.albertacanada.com |
| Temporary Foreign Worker Program | Resource | <i>Employment and Social Development Canada</i> | The Temporary Foreign Worker Program is a federal program designed to meet temporary labour needs in Alberta to fill short-term gaps in the labour force. | ----- | ----- | www.esdc.gc.ca |
| Training & Development Resources | Resource | <i>Food Processing HR Council</i> | The Food Processing HR Council provides up-to-date training materials, human resources kits, multimedia products, guides, and reports to upgrade your employees' skills and abilities. | ----- | ----- | www.fphrc.com |
| Workforce Development Team | Resource | <i>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</i> | The Workforce Development Team brings experience and resources in human resource, retention, recruitment and productivity improvement. The Team provides coaching to clients on how to improve current retention and hiring practices and works with producers and agri-food processing companies. | ----- | ----- | www.agriculture.alberta.ca/workforce |
| Youth Employment Program Industrial Research and Assistance Program (IRAP) | Grant | <i>National Research Council</i> | The Youth Employment Program (YEP) provides financial assistance to innovative small and medium-sized enterprises in Canada to hire post-secondary science, engineering, technology, business and liberal arts graduates. Internships must be at least six and no longer than 12 months and are available anywhere in Canada. Support will help cover a part of the intern's salary but does not include fringe benefits and overhead costs. | \$20,000 | ----- | www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca |