

RTO8 PARTNERSHIP FUNDING PROGRAM QUICK FACTS

1. Eligible businesses may submit one application which can contain more than one project. Eligible applicants for this year's program based on matched funds of eligible costs are:

- b. For Profit tourism businesses (Incorporated OR with an active CRA Business #)
- c. First Nations tourism businesses (51%+ Indigenous Owned and Controlled).

The categories for support are:

- a. Digital Capacity Building – website development and upgrades, digital brochures, experience-based photography and or videography, consumer to operator direct booking widget
- b. Social media communications plan / calendar, posts creation

3. Professional / Equity Performance Theatre (with ticketed sales) are eligible for digital marketing (40+km distance). Note: Venues and community theatre are not eligible for this program.

4. The following groups are limited to applying for the categories noted below at 40% of eligible costs:

- a. Chambers of Commerce, Business Advisory, Workforce Development Boards, BIA's are eligible for skills based training sessions / educational workshops facilitated by a third party.
- b. Municipalities are eligible for community development / strategic development plans, tourism information kiosks and digital portfolio development for the purpose of investment attraction.

4. Partnership Fund projects require a minimum contribution of \$1,500 and a maximum contribution of \$14,000 from RTO8. Costs are exclusive of HST.

5. There will be one intake period for applications in all categories, opening March 3, 2025 and closing on March 31, 2025.

6. Projects applying for Partnership Funding must take place (and have all invoices submitted for payment) between May 1, 2025 – February 13, 2026.

7. All recipients of funding must be prepared to submit their portion of the funds to RTO8

no less than 30-days prior to the start of their project. If funding is not received by RTO8 prior to 30-days from the start of any portion of the project – the agreement will be cancelled.

8. RTO8 does not accept credit cards or cash payments. Our preference for applicants to pay their portion of funds is via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or Direct Deposit. Cheques will be accepted but the applicant must allow additional time (10-days) to ensure the cheque has cleared the bank.

9. Project invoices from vendors / suppliers / services will only be paid by Direct Deposit to businesses with an active CRA number. Each vendor/supplier/service provider will be required to submit a Direct Deposit form prior to submitting any invoices to RTO8. Invoices will not be paid without receipt of a Direct Deposit form.

10. All invoices must come from a third-party vendor with no invested interest in the project's completion to avoid any conflict of interest. Applicants cannot be reimbursed by RTO8 for payment.

11. Remember – RTO8 pays all invoices. Applicants send their portion of the funds to RTO8 and RTO8 submits payment to the suppliers.

