FAQ
Productivity & Innovation Voucher Program

Invest NOVA SCOTIA

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1. **What is the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program?**
   The Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program helps small and medium sized companies access expertise within post-secondary institutions to:
   - Improve productivity;
   - Develop a new product, service, or process; and
   - Grow their business.

2. **What is the application submission deadline?**
   Applications for the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program will be accepted **from April 1, 2026**, **until May 15, 2026**, by 5:00 p.m. ADT.

3. **What is the project completion date?**
   The project must be completed, and the claim submitted no later than
   March 16, 2027.

4. **What is the funding amount of a voucher?**
   The Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program is a credit note, paid directly to the Academic Institution, based on two tiers.
   - Tier 1: Vouchers of up to $15,000 to support a new project (an eligible business may receive up to two Tier 1 vouchers over time, for distinct projects).
   - Tier 2: Vouchers of up to $25,000 for eligible businesses to build on previously completed work under a Tier 1 voucher.

   A business may receive funding for only one project per fiscal year and may only hold one active voucher at a time. A business may receive a maximum of four vouchers through the program over a lifetime (up to two Tier 1 projects, each eligible for one corresponding Tier 2 project).

5. **Is there a deadline to use the vouchers?**
   Yes, Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program Vouchers are valid until
   March 16, 2027.

6. Can I apply for program funding after my project is completed?
Only project costs occurring after submission of a complete application are eligible.
Costs incurred prior to approval are at the applicant's risk.

7. Is progression from Tier 1 to Tier 2 guaranteed?
No. Progression is not guaranteed and is subject to a competitive application process.

8. What information will be publicly released if my project is approved for funding?
The following is released to the public if you are approved for funding:
- Name of the business;
- Sector of focus of the business;
- Provincial region/county location of the business;
- Project is Tier 1 or Tier 2; and
- Amount of funding approved.

9. How is a Service Provider recruited for my project?
It is the responsibility of the business to engage an eligible Service Provider to assist with your project. Please refer to the complete list of 2026-2027 Service Providers on the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program web page.

10. How do I calculate revenue for the prior fiscal years?
Revenue should be the figure from your financial statements or tax return (line 101 from GST 34 or line 8299 from the General Index of Financial Information).

11. How are Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) calculated?
An FTE is the equivalent of one person working full time. Full time is considered to be 2,000 payroll hours for the year. To calculate the number of FTEs for your organization, calculate the total payroll hours worked per fiscal year by all employees, then divide by 2,000.

Note: FTE is not the total number of employees. Each employee is counted only once. Examples: 1 staff working full time = 1 FTE 2 staff each working 4 hours per day, 5 days per week = 1 FTE Total payroll hours for all staff of 13,200 = 6.6 FTE (13,200 / 2,000).

12. If my project activities are not eligible under the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program, what other funding options are available for Nova Scotia businesses?
For more information about additional funding options, please contact the Regional Business Development Advisor in your area.

13. **What is the assessment process?**
    Project applications are subject to a competitive process. Completed applications will be reviewed and assessed based on merit of the application and project. Applications are accessed based on the strength and clarity of the project, feasibility alignment with business plan, and potential for measurable outcomes. Not all applications that meet the criteria may be approved. All applicants will be notified of the results of the assessment. Businesses that submit an application deemed to be ineligible will be advised whether or not they are eligible to subsequently resubmit.

14. **How do I apply to the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program?**
    The Application Form is now online. To apply, go to the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program web page and go to the "Apply Online" section.

    Note: If this is your first time applying to a program with Invest Nova Scotia, please contact the Regional Business Development Advisor for your area.

15. **Who do I contact if I have questions about the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program Online Application Form?**
    Please refer to the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program Guidelines and Online Application Form for further information on what is required for an application to be considered complete. Additional questions can be addressed to the Regional Business Development Advisor in your area.

16. **How will the voucher be paid?**
    Invest Nova Scotia will reimburse the Service Provider as per the Voucher and Agreement. Once the project is completed, the Service Provider must submit the Claim Form and Project Completion Report to Invest Nova Scotia within 60 days. For a project completed within 60 days prior to March 16, 2027, the deliverables must be received by Invest Nova Scotia no later than March 16, 2027. Payment is contingent on submission of required deliverables and approval by Invest Nova Scotia.

    Note: As per the Guidelines, to be eligible for the program, the business must be a Nova Scotia registered business in good standing (current registration on the Registry of Joint Stock Companies).

17. **What type of confidentiality and intellectual property agreements exist between businesses and Service Providers?**
    It is up to businesses and Service Providers to establish confidentiality and intellectual property agreements as they relate to projects. These should outline any rules with respect to safeguarding or ensuring the confidentiality of information, data, documents, or materials of both the company and Service Provider.

18. **Are AI-related projects eligible under PIVP?**
    Yes. Projects involving advanced data and artificial intelligence are encouraged where they demonstrate a clear technical approach, access to required data and systems, and strong potential for measurable business impact.

    Projects are assessed competitively and must meet all standard program criteria. Where justified by scope and technical requirements, they may be considered for Tier 1 funding up to $25,000.