

FAQ

Productivity & Innovation Voucher Program



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 May 2, 2023, until May 31, 2023, 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 15, 2024.

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 for eligible businesses that have not previously been awarded a voucher or are applying with a new project (limit of two per company).
- Tier 2: Vouchers of up to \$25,000 for eligible businesses to build on previously completed work under a Tier 1 voucher.

5. Is there a deadline to use the vouchers?

Yes, Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program Vouchers are valid until March 15, 2024.

6. Can I apply for program funding after my project is completed?

Only project costs occurring after a completed online application is submitted and approved will be deemed eligible.

7. 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.

8. 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 2023-2024 Service Providers on the [Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program](#) web page.

9. 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).

10. 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)

11. 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.

12. 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. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. How will the voucher be paid?

Invest Nova Scotia will reimburse the Service Provider for services rendered in the context of the program. Once the project is completed, the Service Provider must submit deliverables to Invest Nova Scotia. This must be done within 60 days of project completion. For a project completed within 60 days prior to March 15, 2024, the deliverables must be received by Invest Nova Scotia no later than March 15, 2024.

16. 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.