NISCO AI SYSTEMS · RAII FUNDING

AI funding eligibility checklist

FedDev Ontario's Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative (RAII) funds AI projects in southern Ontario. Businesses can get an interest-free contribution for up to 50% of eligible costs. Tick every box that applies to you.

PAGE 1 · FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES

1 *Is your business eligible?*

EVERY BUSINESS

- ☐ **For-profit, located and operating in southern Ontario**
  Or a First Nations, Métis or Inuit business
- ☐ **Incorporated and registered in Canada or Ontario**
- ☐ **You own the project IP, or have the rights you need**
- ☐ **Committed to responsible AI**
  Cybersecurity, human oversight and accountability

AI ADOPTION STREAM · USING AI IN YOUR BUSINESS

- ☐ **In business 3+ years**
  Shown by financial statements
- ☐ **5 to 499 full-time-equivalent staff**
- ☐ **AI beyond commonly available tools**
  Not just ChatGPT or Copilot seats

COMMERCIALIZATION STREAM · SELLING AI

- ☐ **In business 1+ year**
  Shown by financial statements
- ☐ **1+ FTE in southern Ontario, under 500 overall**
- ☐ **AI product at TRL 6 or higher**
  A working prototype proven in a relevant setting

MONEY AND TIMING

- ☐ **Eligible project costs of about $250,000+**
  The $125K minimum is 50% of that
- ☐ **Your half from cash, loans, investors or other government funding**
  Future revenue and in-kind work don't count
- ☐ **You can confirm that money within 30 days of approval**
- ☐ **Project starts no more than 12 months before you apply, ends by Mar 31, 2031**

2 *Is your project the right kind?*

USUALLY FUNDED	USUALLY NOT FUNDED
✓ AI readiness assessments	✗ Commonly available AI tools on their own
✓ Buying and integrating AI (predictive analytics, robotics)	✗ Land or building purchases
✓ Data quality, governance and architecture	✗ Refinancing existing debt
✓ Cybersecurity, training and change management	✗ The cost of preparing your application
✓ Reducing dependence on a single vendor or cloud	✗ Costs not new or not tied to the project

Priority sectors: health and life sciences, energy and resources, transportation, agriculture, manufacturing and robotics.

3 *How the money works*

ITEM	WHAT IT MEANS
Type	Repayable, interest-free contribution: a zero-interest loan, not a grant
Amount	$125,000 to $5,000,000 per project, up to 50% of eligible costs
Repayment	Normally begins 1 year after the project is completed
Stacking	All government help combined: max 50% of capital costs, 75% of non-capital costs
Limits	One FedDev application at a time. Your contacts must be your own staff, not a consultant

4 *Have these ready*

- ☐ Incorporation documents, with ownership percentages
- ☐ Financial statements and realistic projections
- ☐ Project plan, detailed budget and RAII Supplemental Form
- ☐ Responsible-AI plan with a timeline, and an IP strategy
- ☐ Bios of management and the project team
- ☐ Proof of matching funds (bank statements, term sheets)

Not-for-profit or municipality?

Turn the page: non-repayable funding of up to 90%.

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NISCO AI SYSTEMS · RAII FUNDING

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Not-for-profits, charities and municipalities can apply for non-repayable RAII funding of up to 90% of eligible costs, either to adopt AI in their own operations or to help many local businesses adopt it.

PAGE 2 · NOT-FOR-PROFITS AND MUNICIPALITIES

1 Is your organization eligible?

EVERY ORGANIZATION

- ☐ Located and operating in southern Ontario
- ☐ $1M+ annual revenue or operating expenses
  From your most recent financial statements
- ☐ 5+ full-time-equivalent staff
- ☐ Committed to responsible AI, no IP infringement

AI ADOPTION STREAM · AI IN YOUR OWN WORK

- ☐ Incorporated not-for-profit or charity, FNMI not-for-profit, or municipal government
- ☐ 3+ years as a legal entity
- ☐ AI beyond commonly available tools

AI ECOSYSTEM STREAM · HELPING BUSINESSES

- ☐ Incorporated not-for-profit or FNMI not-for-profit
  Municipalities are not listed for this stream
- ☐ Track record serving many southern Ontario businesses
- ☐ An IP policy, and the capacity to lead a multi-partner project

MONEY AND TIMING

- ☐ You can fund at least 10% yourself
  Projects where FedDev pays 50% or less may be preferred
- ☐ You pick ONE stream, with one FedDev application at a time
- ☐ You can confirm all matching funds within 30 days of approval
- ☐ Project starts no more than 12 months before you apply, ends by Mar 31, 2031

2 Which stream fits?

ITEM	AI ADOPTION	AI ECOSYSTEM
Purpose	Adopt and integrate AI in your own operations	Help southern Ontario SMEs adopt, commercialize and scale AI
Funding	$125,000 to $5,000,000	$125,000 to $10,000,000
Type	Non-repayable, up to 90% of eligible costs	
Typical work	Readiness assessment, AI integration, data governance, cybersecurity, staff AI literacy	SME training and advisory, adoption programs, testbeds and demos, talent, responsible-AI frameworks

3 Key dates (both pages)

November 24, 2026
Apply by this date if your project and costs start before March 31, 2027

January 19, 2027 · 4:59 pm EST
Final deadline for all other applications. Intake opened October 13, 2026

Business associations, boards of trade, BIAs and accelerators: the Ecosystem stream can fund an AI adoption program for your members. Nisco can be the delivery partner that builds and runs it.

Book a free eligibility call

We'll tell you honestly whether your project fits, and which stream.

cal.com/nisco/niscobooking
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FedDev Ontario makes all eligibility and funding decisions. This checklist is general information summarized from FedDev Ontario's published RAII pages (last updated October 2026), not financial or legal advice; always confirm with the official program pages and Applicant Guides. Nisco AI Systems is not affiliated with the Government of Canada, does not charge success fees, and does not act as your contact with FedDev Ontario. Source: feddev-ontario.canada.ca/en/funding-southern-ontario/regional-artificial-intelligence-initiative-southern-ontario