



BC Agriculture Labour Market and Skills Development Initiative

An Initiative under the Agri-Food Futures Fund



Frequently Asked Questions

The Agriculture Labour Market and Skills Development Initiative (ALMSDI) has compiled a series of FAQs in an attempt to address any concerns or questions anyone wishing to access the ALMSDI may have. Please feel free to contact the ALMSDI Project Administrator should your question not be addressed here or in our application guide.

1. Do I have to be a member of BC Agriculture Council or the Agriculture Labour Partnership Committee to access the initiative?

No. This fund is available to anyone wishing to initiate a project that addresses the goals of ALMSDI's Strategic Plan as laid out in the Application Guide and Strategic Plan (both downloadable). Please read the guide carefully to ensure that your project meets application criteria.

2. Do I have to be a resident of British Columbia to access the fund?

No, but your project must have demonstrable benefit to agriculture in British Columbia.

3. I see that one of ALMSDI's goals is to analyze capital/labour substitution options - if I want to compare mechanical Brussels sprout harvesting with hand harvesting, will the initiative pay for a Brussels sprout harvester?

No. Unfortunately the initiative cannot be used to purchase capital items like major equipment or assets. The application guide lists suitable projects within this and our other goal categories. For example, the project should that would qualify should focus on developing training programs for farmers to use the harvesters, to develop best practices around the harvesters, or to maximize the use of the new technology.

4. I want to open an agricultural labour placement office. Will the fund pay for start-up costs?

No. The fund cannot be used to finance business start-up costs. However, if you wished to compile a listing of labour placement services, options or alternatives, you could apply to the fund for assistance with expenses.

5. What about doing labour market or skills development research projects on my farm?

On-farm research projects are eligible. Use of your farm and farm equipment may be used of part of your contribution to the project. You may receive payment for administration of your own research project, or you may choose to hire someone to administrate it. If you receive payment for your time, you may not also use your time as part of an 'in kind' contribution (see guide for full details).

6. Will this application cost me anything?

There is **no charge for application**, but please note that this fund can only supply up to 50% of the funding required for your project. You are required to supply at least 50% - however 50% of your contribution (25% of the total project) may be "in-kind".

7. What are "in-kind" contributions?

Part of your projects funding (50% of **your** contribution) may be in-kind. These contributions are not monetary, but represent a valuable (assessable) commodity, like time and effort or materials and assets. Part of a crop, labour, or services that can be verified as to value, and clearly support the purposes and objectives of the strategic plan will count as "in-kind" contributions.

8. Are travel costs applicable?

Yes, the AFFF ALMSDI will pay for travel costs that are directly related to the project. For example, a farmer may wish to travel to another region to learn about a specific skills development program. This would be allowed, but the farmer would require a definite plan to share the information they gained with the rest of agriculture.

9. Are the results of AFFF ALMSDI projects public property?

Yes, everything that results from an AFFF ALMSDI project becomes a public document. The Program Administrator will prepare summaries of projects for the use of the agriculture community and other interested persons.

10. What if I can't download the application?

If you are on a public or shared computer and can't download, you can contact the office for an application and/or guide or copy of the strategic plan. You can fill in the application by hand (please print legibly) or on the computer. If at all possible, we would appreciate receiving the application and supporting documents electronically to facilitate distribution to our committee, but hard copies are welcome.