

The issue: Continued funding for The Allied Health Professional Development Fund

As we understand it, the Ford Government's agenda is to increase support for front-line health care professionals. The Allied Health Professional Development Fund (AHPDF) has been providing valuable continued professional development funding for regulated, allied health professionals for over a decade. Allied health professionals using the fund include; audiologists, speech language pathologists, dietitians, medical laboratory technologists, medical radiation technologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, and respiratory therapists who represent over 55,000 of Ontario's front-line health care professionals. The fund touches 9 regulated health professions, all providing very different forms of treatment, diagnosis and care for patients across Ontario and contributes positively to patient outcomes.

What does the fund do to support front-line health care workers?

The AHPDF is a HealthForceOntario initiative that reimburses fees for professional development activities that upgrade skills and enhance knowledge and leadership capacity among allied health professionals. In fiscal year 2017/2018, 6,380 workers were approved for grants, with an average reimbursement of \$546. This represents a total of \$3,482,370 in grant funding and when compared to the private sector average professional development spend of \$889¹ per employee in 2016/17 is evidence of significant savings.

As the scope of practice of regulated health professions in Ontario continues to evolve, the AHPDF plays a critical role in the in supporting the education of the front-line providers. A recent example of the AHPDF in action delivering a cost savings to the province, was in 2017/18 when 1418 pharmacists accessed the fund for a total of \$732,858.40. That same year Ontario's pharmacists delivered over 1.2 million flu shots at a cost saving to the province of roughly 2.4 million dollars, a savings that will continue to produce year over year.

In addition, as Ontario continues to make advances with technology based health care the AHPDF will continue to play an important role in the roll out and success of new programs.

The fund creates an incentive for our allied health professionals to access and obtain quality education and to foster best practice in quality care of the Ontario public who rely on these essential services every day. It also promotes a culture of care and empowerment on behalf of the provincial government to the professionals and the public to which it serves.

¹ Canadian Employers' Investment in Employee Learning and Development Continues to Rise
The Conference Board of Canada January 31st, 2018



Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario
L'Association des professionnels des laboratoires médicaux de l'Ontario

What we can do to help:

- Ensure that our members are aware of government actions.
- Work with government to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the fund.
 - Utilizing funding to support for a Learning Management System (LMS) available to all Health Care Professionals allowing access to a variety of on and off-line learning.
- Providing examples of the AHPDF's continued utilization in the roll out of Provincial health initiatives.