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(May 14, 2020) Today, the Prime Minister [announced](#) funding to help support small and medium-sized businesses that do not qualify for, or have been declined for, current Government of Canada COVID-19 relief funding. The [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund \(RRRF\)](#) will be delivered by Canada's six regional development agencies. In southern Ontario, \$252.4 million is available, which is comprised of \$213 million for small and medium-sized businesses facing financial pressure; and \$39.4 million to provide rural businesses with access to capital and business support. Eligible businesses must:

- Be a Canadian or provincially incorporated business, co-operative or an Indigenous-owned business located in southern Ontario with 1 to 499 full-time equivalent employees;
- Be facing funding pressures with fixed operating costs as a result of COVID-19;
- Have been a viable business before the COVID-19 pandemic and plan to continue to operate their business or resume operations;
- Have already applied to other Government of Canada emergency credit relief measures for which they are eligible.

Priority may be given to businesses in the manufacturing, technology, tourism and other sectors key to the region, that are major employers in small communities or that support the government's commitment to underrepresented groups.

There are two funding options: 1) up to a \$40,000 conditionally repayable contribution (interest-free loan) and 2) up to \$500,000 unconditionally repayable contribution (interest-free loan). For more information about the program, including how to apply, please see the [program guidelines](#) and the [frequently asked questions](#). The Application Guide for the RRRF program can be found [here](#).

- The application portal for the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program has not yet opened. Please visit the [Canada Housing & Mortgage Corporation site](#) for more information.