

2024

**Physician Assistant (PA)
Career Start Grant Funding**

Application Form

Ministry of Health

About the program:

The Physician Assistant (PA) Career Start Program provides time-limited financial support to eligible employers to facilitate the transition of PA graduates into the Ontario health care system to help address patient care needs. The program aims to encourage integration of the PA profession by connecting new PA graduates with employers who are committed to the financial support and longer-term sustainability of the PA role in their organization.

Employer Eligibility:

Employers are required to demonstrate that they meet the eligibility requirements that are outlined in section C of this application form. To be eligible for PA Career Start funding, your organization must demonstrate a commitment and plan for integrating and sustaining the PA position beyond the end date of the PA Career Start funding. Organizations that have not demonstrated this commitment in the past may not be approved for funding.

FAMILY HEALTH TEAMS (FHTs) are not eligible to apply for PA Career Start funding. FHTs may apply separately to the Ministry of Health ("the ministry") through the annual budget submission for base funding for PA salaries and benefits.

Financial Support:

The following time-limited employment support funding may be provided for eligible employers who successfully recruit a 2024 Ontario PA graduate:

- One-year funding of up to \$46,000;
- Two-year funding of up to \$46,000 per year in communities with a Rurality Index for Ontario (RIO) score of 40+ or a Northern Urban Referral Centre (NURC) (Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie); and
- An incentive grant of \$10,000 to a PA who is employed in a community with a RIO score of 40+ or a NURC. (Note: the PA is eligible for the grant after completion of one year of service with employers who qualify for two years of funding.)

Application and Review Process:

Please complete all sections of this application form, being as specific and detailed as possible. Incomplete applications will not be considered. **ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE TYPED.**

Please refer to the 2024 PA Career Start Program Guidelines and FAQs for detailed information by visiting the Ministry's PA homepage at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/health-human-resources>

Submitting an application does not guarantee funding. All applications will undergo a review process. The ministry will communicate the status of your application once decisions have been finalized.

The deadline for submission is July 31, 2024.

Applications can be submitted by email to: pacareerstart@ontario.ca

PLEASE USE THE SPACE PROVIDED TO COMPLETE EACH QUESTION. SHOULD YOU REQUIRE MORE SPACE, INCLUDE INFORMATION ON A SEPARATE PAGE AND ATTACH TO YOUR APPLICATION.

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the section below, please provide a brief overview of the clinical area (Emergency Department, Primary Care, General Internal Medicine or other) where the PA will be employed, services the PA will provide and a summary of the anticipated impact of integrating a PA into your organization:

EMPLOYER INFORMATION (PLEASE TYPE IN ALL FIELDS)

1. Legal Name of PA Employer:

2. Full Mailing Address of the organization where the PA will be hired (include unit number, city, postal code):

3. Phone Number (include extension if applicable):

4. Canada Revenue Agency Business Number (CRA BN):

5. How long has this organization been in operation?

6. Clinical Setting where PA will be providing services (please check one that best describes your setting):

- Emergency Department Specialty Care
- Primary Care Long-Term Care
- General Internal Medicine
- Other (please describe):

7. Type of Employer e.g., Physician group (FHN, FHG or FHO), Hospital, Solo practice (Medicine Professional Corporation (MPC) etc.?

8. Will the PA be employed in a Family Health Team? Yes No

(Please note that Family Health Teams are not eligible for funding in the PA Career Start program)

9. Have you been approved for funding under the PA Career Start program previously? Yes No

If yes, which year(s)?

10. Is the PA(s) still employed at your organization? Yes No

If not, why?

11. Description of where the PA will be employed:

a) Site Name:

b) Site address (include unit number, city, postal code):

c) List your team members (number and type of providers etc.):

d) Patient Population Served:

e) Number of Patients/Admits:

f) Other Important characteristics such as catchment area, mandate, etc. (Please explain below):

Applicant Contact Details (who to contact in case of any questions):

Name:

Position:

Email:

Phone Number:

Website:

Contact for Recruiting Purposes (if not you):

Name:

Position:

Email:

Phone Number:

B. ELIGIBILITY

Employers must meet eligibility requirements to be considered. Please check the following to demonstrate you have reviewed and are eligible:

- The majority of the care that we provide is publicly funded (organizations providing non-publicly funded services may not be approved).
- We have established a viable role for the PA on our team and our team is supportive of employing a PA.
- Our organization's senior administration is supportive of employing a PA.
- We have adequate space and infrastructure to accommodate the PA.
- We have a plan that ensures adequate physician supervision for the PA.
- We have a plan to ensure the PA is oriented and that necessary enablers for PA practice are in place (e.g. assessment and training of the PA, medical directives where necessary, etc.).
- We have secured the necessary finances to match the grant funding for full-time employment – check one only
 - One year for communities with RIO score of less than 40 OR
 - Two years for communities with RIO score of 40+ or a NURC (Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie).
- We are committed to the PA role and have a plan for sustaining the PA position upon completion of the grant funding.
- We are committed to funding an additional six-week, full-time position for the PA if the PA is not bridged into full-time employment at the end of the grant funding.

RURALITY INDEX FOR ONTARIO (RIO)

All sites with a Rurality Index for Ontario (RIO) score of 40 or above and all Northern Urban Referral Centers (NURCs) (Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie) are eligible to receive two (2) years of funding. Additionally, PAs who accept employment at these sites (RIO 40+ or NURC) are eligible to receive a recruitment and retention incentive of \$10,000 after one year of service.

Please complete/check the following:

1. Our RIO score is:
2. We qualify for the incentive based on our RIO score (i.e. 40 or above) Yes No
3. We are a NURC (as identified above), therefore we qualify for the incentive Yes No

C. ASSESSMENT OF NEED

Please use the following section to demonstrate how the PA will help address existing health service gaps or pressures. Please be as detailed as possible in your responses.

- a. Please describe any challenges your site has in providing care to patients (e.g., timely or need for better access to services in your area, unattached or underserved patients, wait times, mandate to serve marginalized and/or high needs populations, etc.) and how the integration of a PA will help address these challenges?

- b. Please describe any health human resources challenges at your site (e.g., chronic recruitment challenges) and how the integration of a PA will help address these challenges?

- c. Please describe any additional factors that should be considered (e.g., programs offered by organizations that PAs might contribute to, lack of other services, urgent care centers, etc.)?

D. ROLE OF THE PA IN YOUR ORGANIZATION

Please use the following section to describe and explain the proposed role for the PA at your site and your plan for integrating and evaluating the PA role. Please be as specific as possible in your responses.

- 1. Describe how familiar you and your team members are with the PA role?

- 2. Describe how you plan to introduce/orient the PA (to your clinic, team, patients etc.)?

- 3. Describe the proposed role of the PA in your organization/service (clinical services provided by PA, responsibilities, hours, team with which they will work, etc.) and how will the PA function within the clinical team?

- 4. Describe how the clinical team is supportive of the PA position and its long-term integration:

5. Describe your plan for providing adequate PA supervision:

6. What goals/outcomes does the organization plan to achieve by adding a PA to its clinical team?

7. How will you track/measure the impact of the PA role (quantitative/qualitative outcomes and measures)?

8. How will you assess whether or not the integration of a PA has helped your organization meet these goals?

E. COMMITMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PA ROLE

Organizations must clearly demonstrate how the PA position will be sustained beyond the initial grant funding period.

9. Describe how your organization’s leadership supports the PA position and its long-term integration. Please attach letter of support or other details.

10. Describe your organization’s plan for matching funding for its portion of the PA position during the Career Start program. Please be as specific as possible and include details.

11. Describe your organization’s sustainability plan for securing funding for the PA position once the PA Career Start funding ends. Please be as specific as possible and include details.

12. If sustainable funding depends on partnerships/commitment from other organizations, have these partnerships been secured? Provide details and evidence of this commitment if applicable.

13. What risks can your organization identify regarding funding stability? What will your organization do to mitigate these risks?

F. JOB POSTING

APPLICANTS MUST INCLUDE A JOB POSTING WITH THIS APPLICATION.

The job posting should include:

- A description of your organization and its location / address
- The clinical area / department where the PA will be employed
- A description of the PA role/job,
- An anticipated start date
- Salary range
- Contact email of the employer/ recruiter

A job posting template is included to assist you with completing the job posting (Appendix B). All categories in the job posting template are required in your job posting submission to the Ministry. Job postings that do not contain the information on the template **will be returned as incomplete** to the employer. You may add other details that are important in advertising your position.

Job postings will be provided to 2024 PA graduates only. Sites that are eligible for financial support will be required to agree to the terms of this funding with the ministry before their job is circulated (Appendix A). Sites who do not meet eligibility criteria for financial support will still be entitled to recruitment assistance through the ministry.

Please note that to receive supports, PA graduates from McMaster University and The Consortium Program must begin employment no later than December 31, 2024.

Please check the following to confirm that:

- We have attached a job posting for this position.
- PA can start as early as (date): _____
- We may be interested in hiring a PA even if we are not selected to participate in the 2024 PA Career Start.

G. APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- We have reviewed the **2024 PA Career Start Program Guidelines**.
- We have reviewed the following resources:
 - CAPA's CanMEDS-PA (formerly known as the National PA Competency Profile and Scope of Practice)
 - Information for Physicians Supervising PAs (Role of the Supervising Physician)
 - Understanding Liability Related to the Employment of PAs
 - CPSO Policy on Delegation of Controlled Acts
 - Resources re: Delegation and Medical Directives
- We have signed the attached Terms of Funding Acknowledgement (**Appendix A**).
- We have attached a 2024 PA Career Start job posting, or completed the template provided (**Appendix B**).
- We agree to participate in any evaluation requirements.

H. AUTHORIZATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Please ensure that you have completed **all sections** of the application form. Incomplete applications will not be processed. The ministry will confirm receipt and communicate the status of your application once decisions have been finalized.

By signing this application, you are confirming that:

1. You have secured the necessary finances to match the grant funding;
2. You meet all eligibility requirements outlined in Section B; and
3. Parties understand that selection to participate in the 2024 PA Career Start Program does not guarantee success in recruiting a 2024 Ontario PA program graduate.
4. You have committed to funding an additional six-week, full-time position for the PA if the PA is not bridged into full-time employment at the end of the grant funding period.

#1 - Signing Authority from Organization:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

#2 - Signing Authority from Organization (Supervising Physician/Administrative Lead):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX A: TERMS OF FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Approved Applications

Should your application be approved, you will be notified by the ministry. Approved organizations will be eligible to receive up to \$46,000 per year for one or two years provided you are successful in recruiting a 2024 Ontario Physician Assistant (PA) graduate and subject to your entering into the standard form of transfer payment agreement with the ministry.

Transfer Payment Agreement

The transfer payment agreement will include financial, progress and evaluation reporting requirements. Payment agreements may commence from September 1, 2024 for a period of one year, or two years for communities with a Rurality Index for Ontario (RIO) score of 40+ or a Northern Urban Referral Centre (NURC) (Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie).

Additionally, organizations will be required to commit to funding an additional six-week, full-time position for the PA if the PA is not bridged into permanent full-time employment at the end of the approved grant funding period.

Recruitment Process

The recruitment process is competitive, and all interviews should be offered to qualified candidates in a timely fashion. All PAs have to start working by December 31, 2024.

Job Posting

Your job posting will be accessible only to 2024 Ontario PA graduates. Interested candidates will apply directly to you by way of the contact information provided in your job posting. As the employer, you are responsible for contacting the candidates you wish to interview and to extend any job offers.

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY RECRUITING A PA, YOU MUST NOTIFY THE MINISTRY BY EMAIL AT pacareerstart@ontario.ca BY SUBMITTING YOUR CONTACT, RECRUITMENT AND FINANCIAL (CRF) FORM to initiate the process for payment of your grant.

Once you engage the services of the PA, you will be solely responsible for complying with any legislative or other obligations that apply to employers including the withholding and payment of any taxes, premiums, contributions, and remittances of any nature required by any applicable governmental authority in respect of that PA. If these terms are agreeable to you and should your application be approved, please confirm by signing below.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I have the authority to bind the Corporation.

APPENDIX B: JOB POSTING TEMPLATE

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|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of Employer• Address of Employer |
|--|

JOB TITLE: Physician Assistant
CLINICAL AREA: Emergency Department/Primary Care/Internal Medicine/Other (Please specify)
DURATION: One or Two-Year Contract Position
SALARY RANGE: Include Minimum to Maximum Salary

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION, TOWN/CITY:

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DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICE (Clinic, Hospital, Solo Practice etc.) AND THE CLINICAL AREA PA WILL BE EMPLOYED

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POSITION SUMMARY (E.g. Direct Patient Care, Communication, Medical Documentation etc.):

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| What duties/responsibilities will the PA perform? |
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REPORTS TO:

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EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2024 Graduate of the McMaster or Consortium Physician Assistant Program and must be eligible for certification through the Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada.• You may wish to add additional details here. |
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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| To apply for this position, please submit your CV and Cover Letter to: Email address of employer: _____ |
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