

Building Blueprints for AI Adoption (BBAA) – Funding

Program Description

The **Building Blueprints for AI Adoption (BBAA)** program is an initiative developed by the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) and the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre (NOIC) to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Northern Ontario. BBAA is a pilot program designed to support SMEs in integrating and adopting emerging AI technologies in their business enhancing productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness through training, mentorship and funding.

Projects must focus on increasing business growth and competitiveness by integrating and adopting AI-driven technologies that enhance productivity, efficiency, and customer experiences. Eligible AI projects must be led by growth-oriented SMEs progressing through commercialization. These may include, but are not limited to, initiatives such as predictive maintenance, AI-powered business analytics, smart ordering systems, inventory and supply chain optimization, customer-facing chatbots, and personalized marketing solutions using AI.

Program Eligibility

| Requirement | Details |
|--|--|
| Business Type | Growth oriented, For-profit SME (Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, Corporation) |
| Business Location | Business must be currently operating within the Algoma-Manitoulin Region or Northwestern Ontario |
| Project Focus | Business growth and competitiveness by integrating and adopting AI-driven technologies that enhance productivity, efficiency, and customer experiences |
| Ineligible companies include (but not limited to) | Distributors, resellers, retail-only, or projects already in progress |

Eligible Activities

Projects must align with the Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative (RAII) program and contribute to tangible economic development outcomes. They must demonstrate clear economic development objectives and create measurable growth results in the short to medium term.

Funding Details

- Max funding: 50% of eligible approved costs, up to \$20,000 grant
- Once approved, SME pays the service provider in full, then submits through SSMIC for 50% reimbursement (excl. HST)
- Quotes must include scope of work, rate per hour, and estimated hours
- Project Evaluation Criteria
- Measurable business impact (revenue, jobs, market expansion)
- Alignment with regional economic development priorities

BBAA 30/60/90 Day AI Adoption Plan Overview

A BBAA 30/60/90 Day AI Adoption Plan is a structured roadmap outlining how a business will adopt and integrate artificial intelligence tools, systems, or processes following project approval. It demonstrates a clear, realistic, and measurable approach to AI implementation and is divided into 30, 60, and 90 day phases with key activities, milestones, deliverables, responsibilities, procurement timelines, and expected outcomes. The plan also serves as a reference for assessing project progress and funding alignment under the BBAA program.

The plan should reflect the full scope of the proposed AI adoption project and clearly connect all funding items to implementation activities and business objectives. It should show how AI tools, software, equipment, or consulting services will drive operational improvements, efficiency gains, customer experience enhancements, revenue growth, or other measurable impacts. AI tool subscriptions may be eligible for up to one year but cannot be submitted as standalone expenses and must be part of a broader implementation project. The plan should also demonstrate realistic timelines, organizational readiness, and how AI will be embedded into daily operations beyond the funding period.

To view a list of possible eligible AI projects and implementation examples, please refer to **page 3**.



BBAA AI Adoption Funding Process



Project Categories include but not limited to:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>I. Enhanced Digital Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernizing Systems and Tools • Security and Data Protection • Efficiency and Connectivity • Scalability and Future Growth | <p>II. AI-Powered Business Analytics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predictive Analytics and Forecasting • Anomaly Detection • Sales Channel Support • Marketing Analytics & Customer Insights |
| <p>III. Supply Chain & Inventory Optimization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock Level Monitoring & Low Inventory Alerts • Dynamic Reorder-Point Calculation • Multi-Stop Route Optimization • Supplier Performance & Risk Monitoring | <p>IV. Predictive Maintenance in Manufacturing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analysis & Prediction • Real-Time Monitoring & Alerts • Advance Technologies with IoT and • Machine Learning |
| <p>V. Personalized Customer Experiences in B2C Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predictive Analytics for Personalization • Smart Ordering System • Automated Customer Service via Chatbot • Personalized Marketing & Engagement • Enhanced Customer Segmentation | <p>VI. Productivity and Workflow Optimization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Task & Time Coordination Tools • Streamlining Manual Processes • Facilitating Team Collaboration • Dashboarding and Data Visualization |
| <p>VII. Automation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workflow and Process Automation • Automated Customer Service via Chatbot • Automation and Augmentation • End-to-End Task Automation | <p>VIII. AI in Human Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI-Powered Training and Development • Streamlined Onboarding Processes • Employee Engagement Analytics • Talent Acquisition & Screening Support |

How to Apply

- Connect with NOIC and discuss the project to ensure eligibility (*Note: Slots for this program are limited. Early consultation is recommended to ensure availability.*)
- Submit your 30/60/90 Day AI Adoption Plan
- Prepare Required Documentation (Business Name Registration or Articles of Incorporation)
- Fill Out Program Application Form
- Submit Funding Application

Contact Information

Hussain Hayat

hussain@nwoinnovation.ca

807-768-6682 ext. 3917