

Resource & Facilities Grant Outline

Academic year 2022/2023

Context and Offer

Launched in May 2019, the Skills and Education Group Foundation champions social mobility in the further education and skills sector, highlighting the role providers play in transforming people's lives and combating the likelihood of persistent poverty and social exclusion.

To this end, we have supported individual learners with grants that help cover the essential costs of their education and we have empowered staff to improve their practice through the funding of action-research projects.

Whilst continuing with this work, we are keen to make positive changes to the resources and facilities of our members and deliver material improvements to the fabric of the FE Sector as a whole.

To this end, we are offering grants of up to £2,000 to applicants who have identified a material problem that is negatively effecting the experience of their learners or the ability of their colleagues to deliver high quality teaching.

These grants can be used to fund time-limited projects, with clear physical outcomes. This might include, but not be limited to;

- The creation of a garden space (covering tool and material purchase costs, exclusive of labour costs)
- The painting of a mural onsite (covering tool and material purchase costs, exclusive of labour costs)

These grants can also be used to renew or improve resources or facilities at your organisation. This might include, but not be limited to;

- The order of laptops for a class or department
- The purchasing of new catering equipment and utensils
- The purchasing of new sports equipment or team kits
- The purchasing of new construction tools or materials

These grants should be considered as independent, standalone funding opportunities. They are to help provide a clear and sustainable impact for learners and staff that is not contingent on ongoing funding or future budgeting. As such, grants will not be made available to pay for

- Contracts for ongoing services or third-party works (estates maintenance, cleaning etc..)
- Contracts for the rental of equipment (whether short or long term)
- The partial funding of temporary or fixed-term roles
- The partial funding of permanent roles
- The fractional investment towards larger capital projects

The grant process will run throughout the year, with each wave of grants being distributed on a quarterly basis. The submission date for each wave of applications is given below, with notification of application approval and funding dispersal to follow two weeks thereafter.

- Monday December 5th
- Monday March 6th
- Monday June 5th
- Monday September 4th

Below, we offer up some details on what each section of that form should cover. Hopefully, these pointers are useful to you but if you have any questions or follow up comments, please feel free to get in touch with the Skills and Education Group Foundation and External Affairs Manager, Joe Mcloughlin at joem@skillsedugroup.co.uk or on Twitter @SEG_JoeM

Background & Problem (500 words)

In this section, applicants are invited to outline the context that they are working in. They might pay particular attention to the socio-economic make up of their area, the demographics of their learners and how these factors inform outcomes, the relationships that their department or organisation has established with local or national businesses.

Building on this base, they can then go on to outline what resource or facility is in need of improvement in their department or at their organisation more widely. How has the low-quality or lack of this resource negatively impacted the experiences and outcomes of staff and learners and what effect has this had on the wider community?

To answer this question as best they can, applicants are advised to contribute quantitative and qualitative evidence in their response, as is most appropriate.

Alternatively, once background has been established, applicants might recognise that there are particular strengths in their department or wider organisation and could make the case for funding on the basis of building on those strengths to provide an even more impressive offer to the local community.

Again, applicants are advised to evidence these stronger claims.

Proposal (400 words)

In this section applicants should outline what the grant funding will be spent on, giving details on:

- The range and quantity of items or materials being requested
- The suppliers of those items
- The lead-time of those items (if any)

Staff Beneficiaries (300 words)

Applicants should outline the number of staff members that will benefit from this funding in the **immediate, short and long term**. Short and long term should be understood as 1 and 5 years, respectively.

We are aware that predicting short and longer term impact may be tricky but we are happy to accept estimates built on a robust evidence base. In this instance, evidence might include departmental averages of team size carried into the future, calculations of staff numbers based on current or approved recruitment plans, or some other quantifiable factor.

Applicants should also use this section to describe **how** the purchases enabled by the grant will benefit staff. This might cover, but not be limited to, the following:

- Will new equipment make teaching, learning and assessment quicker and easier to deliver?
- Will new up-to-date tools and materials allow staff to give students as close to an industry experience as possible
- Will new sports uniforms help staff improve learner “buy-in” and so improve engagement and behavioural issues?

Learner Beneficiaries

Applicants should outline the number of learners that will benefit from this funding in the **immediate, short and longer term**. Short and long term should be understood as 1 and 5 years, respectively.

We are aware that predicting short and longer term impact may be tricky but we are happy to accept estimates built on a robust evidence base. In this instance, evidence might include departmental averages of cohort size carried into the future, feedback from current student engagement and recruitment campaigns, or some other quantifiable factor.

Additional Beneficiaries

In this section, applicants are invited to consider if there are any additional beneficiaries of this funding? These beneficiaries might include:

- Local businesses who support apprentices who will have access to better learning materials and tools following the grant
- Community organisations that also use the facilities that the fund is improving
- Local schools that can now make a stronger and clearer offer to their learners who are looking to pursue a particular course at your organisation.

Costings

Please use this section to provide project costings and evidence of these where possible, feel free to use tables and charts if this is a more comfortable way of presenting this numeric data.