

# **The Skills Capital Fund Call for Proposals**

## **17 July – 28 July 2017**

### **Eligibility and Guidelines**

#### **Introduction**

The Local Enterprise Partnership has negotiated with the Government for a Local Growth Deal that allows freedoms and flexibilities to target investment in the growth priorities outlined in the Strategic Economic Plan. An important component of the Local Growth Deal is the Skills Capital Fund which provides the infrastructure for the skills needed to develop this economic growth.

#### **Invitation to apply for Skills Capital Funding**

The Local Enterprise Partnership is inviting proposals for skills capital projects by submission of an 'Outline Application'. The invitation will be open from 09.00 on 17 July 2017 until 17.00 on 28 July 2017.

#### **Project proposals are invited that will:**

- Develop high quality learning environments in Further Education Colleges
  - Providing outstanding learning and training environments that are safe, fit for purpose and where beneficial able to match workplace standards
  - Reduce College estate in poor condition (i.e. Categories C and D)
- Support business growth
  - Investing in facilities and equipment that support economic growth in areas such as Food Manufacturing, Agriculture and Agri-tech, Engineering and the Bioeconomy
  - Contribute to the socio-economic needs of the locality particularly in rural areas and those of high disadvantage
- Help tackle issues with regard to Future Skills Needs such as construction skills, leaderships and management, succession planning, business planning and facilitating the changing workforce landscape. Also, delivering innovative methods to upskill on the use of technologies such as IT and digital communication.

## Eligibility to apply

Applications will be considered from:

- Organisations based in the YNYER Area with proposals that would benefit local people.

AND ALSO

- Be one of the following:
  - A Post 16 Further Education College (including delivery of higher education)
  - A Sixth Form College
  - A University Technical College (Post 16+)
  - A approved training organisation #
  - A charitable training provider
  - A specialist organisation that provides further education for students with a range of learning difficulties

# On the Register of Training Organisations with the Education and Skills Funding Agency in the current academic year

## Submitting an Outline Application

1. Download the Outline Application from the Local Enterprise Partnership website
2. Complete the Outline Application as fully and accurately as possible
3. Electronically Sign the Online Application and return as an email attachment to [Skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com](mailto:Skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com) by 17.00 on 28 July 2017
4. If you do not receive an acknowledgement please contact the Local Enterprise Partnership

## The Process

1. The Outline Applications will be appraised by members of the Skills Capital Panel, the panel may decide to enlist external expertise if applicable
2. Applicants will be notified during August 2017 whether their project proposal is to be progressed to the next stage or not
3. Feedback will be offered
4. Proposals passed to next stage will then require a presentation to be made by project representatives to a panel that will give further consideration to project viability
5. Projects successful with the presentation stage will be requested to submit a detailed business case
6. Subject to a satisfactory appraisal of the business case a Funding Agreement will be issued, it is only when this document is signed by both parties that funding is allocated

## Guidance and Notes

1. There is no lower or upper financial limit to a project proposal
2. In order to preserve integrity neither the Partnership nor the assessors will discuss applications during the assessment period
3. Where organisations submitting Outline Applications are served by two Local Enterprise Partnerships the YNYER Partnership reserves the right to resolve any issues with duplication of application
4. The project should represent value for money, give good returns on the public investment and be sustainable
5. If an organisation has delivered government funded skills projects during the last five years then its track record may be taken into account, i.e. outcomes and performance
6. Projects will not be supported that are primarily for the development of the organisation's own workforce

**The Outline Application can be downloaded here>**

**Workshop** A workshop will be offered to applicants on 18 July to answer any questions on completing of the Outline Application. Please register interest by emailing: [skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com](mailto:skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com)

### **Key Dates**

- Outline Applications can be submitted from 17 July to 17.00 on Friday 28 July
- A workshop on how to complete Online Applications will be offered on 18 July, please request details by emailing [skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com](mailto:skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com)
- Notification of application outcome will be given on 10 & 11 August
- Feedback will be offered on 16 August
- Representatives of proposals passing to the next stage will be asked to present project details to a panel on 24 August
- Announcements will be made on 5 October

### **Contact**

Any queries should be emailed to [Skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com](mailto:Skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com).