

# Funding Guide for Workforce Development

for employers, training  
providers and learners

January 2012



THE YOUNG **Y** FOUNDATION





## Foreword

Welcome to the fifth edition of the *Funding Guide for Workforce Development*, providing information on sources of funding to support the development of the voluntary and community sector's (VCS) children, young people and families' workforce. This guide is for service delivery organisations (that deliver services to children and young people 0 - 25 and their families), local support and development organisations, individuals and training providers based in England.

This funding guide has been produced by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) on behalf of the Catalyst consortium, a NCVYS co-ordinated partnership. Catalyst is a consortium of four organisations working with the Department for Education (DfE) as the strategic partner for young people, as part of the Department's wider transition programme for the sector. Catalyst will work to deliver three key objectives over a two-year period. It will strengthen the youth sector market, equip the sector to work in partnership with Government and co-ordinate a skills development strategy for the youth sector's workforce. NCVYS partners include the National Youth Agency, Social Enterprise UK and the Young Foundation.

We are working in difficult and challenging times, against a backdrop of funding cuts, which is affecting the voluntary and community sector's ability to deliver vital services to children, young people and families. Government funding for skills and learning is now being prioritised to support learners who are disadvantaged and those with a very low level of skills. There is an expectation that learners and employers will fully fund or co-invest, alongside Government, to meet the costs of intermediate and higher level training courses from which they will derive personal benefits. For example, 50% of the training costs are paid for apprentices aged 19 or over (see page 14). It is best to speak to training providers about which qualifications attract government subsidies, or see page 21 to use the information resources outlined in order to research this yourself. It is, therefore, not unexpected that there has been a reduction in the number of public sector funding schemes available to support workforce development. However, there are still charitable trusts to which groups can apply, albeit with stronger competition than usual.

The ideal scenario is that workforce development costs should always be included in any applications for funding to deliver services and that commissioners/funders accept these, but unfortunately this is not always the

case. Therefore employers and training providers may wish to use this guide to identify funding sources in order to submit specific funding applications to support the learning and development of staff and volunteers. Funding will help organisations to establish and maintain a learning culture in their organisation.

Sadly budgets for learning and development are often the first to go when times are hard financially, but this is often a false economy. For organisations to be effective they need a high quality workforce. For organisations to be commissioned, they need to provide evidence of a qualified and skilled workforce. Workforce development is not a luxury; it is a necessity.

*Nichola Brown, Workforce Development Officer*



# Introduction

## What is workforce development?

Workforce development is the mechanism to equip volunteers (including trustees) and paid staff with skills and knowledge so that they can effectively deliver and improve services to children, young people and families. Workforce development can include: training; qualifications; induction; supervision; appraisals; and mentoring.

## Advice before applying

As this guide is produced annually it is always best to check grant schemes are still open prior to making any application to the relevant body. You may also like to check whether certain funding schemes are in keeping with the ethos and values of your organisation – e.g. lottery grant schemes are funded from gambling proceeds.

## Changes in funding scheme information

Please note that the criteria and shelf life of funding schemes can change and new funding be announced. Once the funding guide has been published, funding announcements specifically related to workforce development will be placed within NCVYS's *Funding Update*.

Please visit/bookmark NCVYS's funding web page [www.ncvys.org.uk/funding\\_update.html](http://www.ncvys.org.uk/funding_update.html) to view these updates, or sign up to receive notification of the publication of each *Funding Update* in your mailbox at <http://bit.ly/fundingupdatenotification>

In addition, funding announcements will be included within NCVYS's workforce development e-bulletin *Snippets*. To sign up to *Snippets*, please email [mail@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:mail@ncvys.org.uk) or view the e-bulletin on the NCVYS website at [www.ncvys.org.uk/Workforce.html](http://www.ncvys.org.uk/Workforce.html)

## Explanation of terms

Many funders still use the term 'third sector', but more common is the term 'voluntary and community sector' (VCS), which we have therefore used throughout this guide. This term refers to those organisations that are charities, social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations.

## Funding aimed at local support and development organisations

We have made specific reference to any funding schemes that are open to local support and development organisations to support the learning and development costs of their staff and volunteers. These organisations may be referred to as 'local infrastructure organisations' or 'local networks'. They include councils for voluntary service, voluntary action organisations and councils for voluntary youth services. For more information about the role of these organisations, visit the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action's website at [www.navca.org.uk/about/whatisanlio](http://www.navca.org.uk/about/whatisanlio)

Local support and development organisations may also wish to apply for funding for projects to support workforce development in their local networks, e.g. a local training bursary scheme, so we have indicated which schemes are appropriate to apply to (see the heading - support network projects within the text of each appropriate funding scheme).





## Charitable funding for organisations

Charitable funding comes from non-government sources and includes charitable trusts, foundations and grant-making charities. It is a major form of funding for the voluntary and community sector and competition for such funds is high. We have featured those that are favourable to funding projects connected to the learning and development of staff and volunteers.

### **Before applying**

The majority of funds featured are available across England – there are other funds available to organisations located in particular regions or localities, which should be investigated further (see section ‘Sources of additional funding information’ on page 35).

It is always advisable to make contact with the funder to talk through ideas and eligibility criteria, such as size of organisation, maximum amounts of funding available, groups they prioritise and priority areas for funding in advance of putting together your application.



# Charitable funding for organisations

## Grants for the Arts

Funder	<b>Arts Council England and Big Lottery Fund</b>
Who can apply?	Individuals and VCS organisations (no restriction on size).
What is it for?	Time-limited arts-related activity for projects lasting up to three years, including professional development and training.
How much?	Grants between £1,000 and £100,000 (average around £18,000).
Conditions/restrictions	None known.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes, if leading a project.
Support network projects?	No
Deadline	Apply any time.
Website	<a href="http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/">www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/</a>

---

## Strengthening the Voluntary Sector – Independence Grants Programme

Funder	<b>Baring Foundation</b>
Who can apply?	VCS organisations providing advice and advocacy services.
What is it for?	Funding will cover the development of staff skills and knowledge to provide enhanced and improved services.
How much?	Maximum grant is £30,000 but average grant is around £10,000.
Conditions/restrictions	Not given.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes, if services are focused on the purpose of the grants programme.
Support network projects?	Yes, if meets the criteria above.
Deadline	There will be no grant application round in 2011 as the Foundation develops guidelines for a new programme – expected no earlier than April 2012.
Website	<a href="http://www.baringfoundation.org.uk">www.baringfoundation.org.uk</a>

# Charitable funding for organisations

## Awards for All

Funder	<b>Big Lottery Fund</b>
Who can apply?	Not for profit organisations and groups.
What is it for?	Funding for specific projects or activities, which can include training and development activities for staff and volunteers.
How much?	Grants between £300 and £10,000.
Conditions/restrictions	Funding mainly for short-term projects and geared towards small not-for-profit organisations rather than regional or national bodies.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes
Support network projects?	Yes
Deadline	Apply any time but must be three months before project starts. Applications are usually decided within 30 days.
Website	<a href="http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/">www.awardsforall.org.uk/</a>

---

## Strengthening the Third Sector

Funder	<b>The City Bridge Trust</b>
Who can apply?	Only second-tier organisations, which include councils for voluntary service, volunteer centres, membership bodies and development agencies.
What is it for?	Workforce development including work to increase and improve: volunteering; financial management skills; and the quality of evaluation work.
How much?	There is no minimum or maximum grant level.
Conditions/restrictions	Must benefit people living in Greater London.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes
Support network projects?	No
Deadline	Applications are accepted throughout the year. Decision usually takes four months from receiving completed application.
Website	<a href="http://www.citybridgetrust.org.uk/">www.citybridgetrust.org.uk/</a>

# Charitable funding for organisations

## Main Fund

Funder	<b>Esmée Fairbairn</b>
Who can apply?	VCS organisations.
What is it for?	Funds projects that are new and innovative or transfer best practice. This could include the development of innovative or new training programmes, or the development of skills that will enhance services to vulnerable children and young people. Fund focuses on education and cultural sectors.
How much?	Average grant is around £79,000.
Conditions/restrictions	Projects should focus on education and enable people who are disadvantaged to participate more fully in society. No restriction on size of organisation, but favours independent voluntary organisations.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes
Support network projects?	Yes
Deadline	Apply any time. Decision usually takes four months from receiving completed application.
Website	<a href="http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/">www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/</a>

---

## Garfield Weston Foundation

Funder	<b>The Garfield Weston Foundation</b>
Who can apply?	Charities that are seeking funding to support a specific project or identified need.
What is it for?	A wide-ranging fund open to all charities and community groups. They are keen to fund education/training projects and projects which will increase the numbers of young people volunteering.
How much?	No minimum/maximum given.
Conditions/restrictions	Must be a UK registered charity. Will not fund one-off events or salary costs and will not fund projects lasting longer than one year.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes – in some cases.
Support network projects?	No
Deadline	No formal deadlines for submitting applications.
Website	<a href="http://www.garfieldweston.org">www.garfieldweston.org</a>



# Charitable funding for organisations

## Education and learning

Funder	<b>Paul Hamlyn Foundation</b>
Who can apply?	Open to charitable and not-for-profit organisations of any size.
What is it for?	Funds innovative projects looking at change in areas such as tackling school exclusion and truancy, pilot activity, knowledge exchange and development/transfer of best practice.
How much?	No restrictions on amount, providing proposal meets the aims of the grant scheme.
Conditions/restrictions	It will not fund any training leading to accredited vocational qualifications. It will not fund capital projects. No restriction on size/turnover of applicant organisation.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes, providing proposal fits with aim of fund.
Support network projects?	No
Deadline	None – applications can be made at any time.
Website	<a href="http://www.phf.org.uk/">www.phf.org.uk/</a>

---

## Community Programme

Funder	<b>Lloyds TSB Foundation</b>
Who can apply?	Only open to charitable organisations that are formally constituted.
What is it for?	To enable more disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in their communities – workforce development could be included as part of a wider community project.
How much?	Varies depending on project.
Conditions/restrictions	Applicant organisations must be either a small/medium-sized charity with an income of £1m or less, or a national charity with an income of £5m or less. Must be able to show that applicant is an ‘underfunded’ charity, i.e. with 12 months’ reserves or less.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes – if meets the ‘restrictions’ criteria above.
Support network projects?	Yes
Deadline	Apply any time. Decision within three to six months.
Website	<a href="http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/Pages/Welcome.aspx">www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/Pages/Welcome.aspx</a>

# Charitable funding for organisations

## Apprenticeship programme – youth worker

Funder	<b>Rank Foundation</b>
Who can apply?	Youth organisations that engage with young people in open, thoughtful and exciting ways that foster their all-round development.
What is it for?	To fund training and qualifications in youth work, children’s work and play leadership as part of an apprenticeship-type programme operated by the Rank Foundation for those apprentices who work with children and young people (primarily 10 - 25).
How much?	The majority of funds available are major grants and are given to organisations identified by the trust, but small grants of £7,500 are also available.
Conditions/restrictions	Before starting work on an application for funding for the youth work strand you must contact the foundation for an application pack.
Open to local support and development organisations?	No
Support network projects?	No
Deadline	None stated.
Website	<a href="http://www.rankfoundation.com/">www.rankfoundation.com/</a>

---

## Education and training

Funder	<b>Santander</b>
Who can apply?	Only organisations with charitable status for work within the UK.
What is it for?	Funding for disadvantaged people to improve their confidence in a skill or their understanding of a subject. Can be formal training or a qualification.
How much?	Grants up to £10,000. Average £4,000.
Conditions/restrictions	It cannot fund Community Interest Companies or not-for-profit organisations unless they are also registered charities.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes
Support network projects?	Yes
Deadline	Can apply at any time – decision usually within six weeks.
Website	<a href="http://www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/whatwefund.aspx">www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/whatwefund.aspx</a>

# Charitable funding for organisations

## Young people programme

Funder	<b>Henry Smith Charity</b>
Who can apply?	VCS organisations that deliver projects that provide support to young people at risk, particularly those living in areas of deprivation.
What is it for?	General fund which could include a workforce development project if it will ultimately benefit the young people with whom the organisation works.
How much?	Two funds: 'Main Grants' which will fund projects over £10,000, and a 'Small Grants' fund which will support projects less than £10,000.
Conditions/restrictions	To be eligible for a small grant your annual income must be less than £150,000. The charity will not fund projects that promote a particular religion, umbrella organisations, or projects that provide legal or counselling services.
Open to local support and development organisations?	No
Support network projects?	No
Deadline	Trustees meet quarterly in March, June, September and December.
Website	<a href="http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk">www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk</a>

---

## Effective use of volunteers

Funder	<b>Yapp Charitable Trust</b>
Who can apply?	Charities must be at least three years old and have an overall expenditure of less than £40,000 a year.
What is it for?	Core funding. They prioritise applications that demonstrate an effective use of volunteers to sustain existing work with children and young people aged between 5 - 25 years.
How much?	Normally a maximum of £3,000 per year.
Conditions/restrictions	Must focus on their priority groups, which include children and young people 5 - 25 and education and learning.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes
Support network projects?	Yes
Deadline	None stated.
Website	<a href="http://www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk/">www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk/</a>





## Public sector funding for organisations

Compared to the last edition of the funding guide, we have seen a reduction in public sector funding. The schemes that we are aware of are detailed here and any future announcements about funding will be advertised by NCVYS as explained on page 4.

There is an expectation that employers will fully fund or co-invest, alongside Government, to meet the costs of training at intermediate and higher levels, with government funding being prioritised for disadvantaged learners and those with low skills. To find out what government subsidies are available towards units and qualifications it is best to speak to training providers or alternatively use the information resources detailed on page 21.

One of the most popular sources of public sector funding is apprenticeships – training subsidies (see page 14). Apprenticeships are increasingly becoming a popular form of workforce development as these quotes from Fair Train ([www.fairtrain.org](http://www.fairtrain.org)) demonstrate:

*“As a result of their training, our apprentices tend to be highly motivated and eager to learn and develop further. ...”*

Emma-Jane Cross, Beatbullying

*“Apprentices are trained to our ways and standards, without bringing any bad habits from previous jobs ...”*

Jacqui Lawrence, South East Training, Catch22

## Youth in Action Programme

Funder	<b>European Commission through the British Council</b>
Who can apply?	VCS organisations working with young people (15 - 25 years).
What is it for?	Promotes informal and non-formal learning and exchanges of young people between the UK and other countries; specific support for youth workers to develop skills through the Support Measures Programme (job shadowing, study visits, training courses, networking).
How much?	Depends on cost of project.
Conditions/restrictions	There must be commitment to engaging in international youth work. No restriction on size of organisation applying.
Open to local support and development organisations?	No
Support network projects?	No
Website	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth-youth_in_action_programme.htm">www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth-youth_in_action_programme.htm</a>

---

## Graduate Leader Fund – Early Years

Funder	<b>Through local authorities</b>
Who can apply?	Private, voluntary and independent childcare sectors.
What is it for?	Training for graduate early years professionals and continuous professional development for the wider childcare workforce.
How much?	Will cover the salary costs and professional development support for existing staff so they can work towards graduate early years professional status.
Conditions/restrictions	Check with local authority – no restrictions on size of organisation applying.
Open to local support and development organisations?	No
Support network projects?	No
More information	Through Children’s Services Departments of local authorities

## Apprenticeships – training subsidies

Funder	<b>National Apprenticeship Service / Skills Funding Agency (SFA) – training subsidies</b>
What is it for?	The training element of apprenticeships is subsidised by the Government, organised by training providers.
How much?	<p>In 2011/12, the Government pays 100% of the cost of training for apprentices aged 16 to 18 and 50% of the training costs for apprentices aged 19 and over.</p> <p>If you are concerned about paying the apprentices' wages there are other possibilities. For example you could work with an Apprenticeship Training Association which directly employs and manages individuals who undertake their apprenticeship with an approved training provider whilst being hired out to a 'host employer'. To encourage small organisations to take on a young apprentice aged 16 - 24, in 2012/13 the Government will offer employers with up to 50 employees an incentive payment of up to £1,500.</p> <p>The Group Training Association, Fair Train, is developing an 'Apprentices in Charities Bursary Scheme', which aims to help employers meet the financial costs of hiring apprentices.</p> <p>Please see page 23 for information for training providers.</p>
Open to local support and development organisations?	Yes, either as an employer or training provider.
Support network projects?	Yes
Deadline	None
Website	<a href="http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk">www.apprenticeships.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.fairtrain.org">www.fairtrain.org</a>

---



### Bursaries for voluntary organisations releasing staff for social work qualifying training

Funder	<b>NHS Business Service Authority</b>
Who can apply?	Learners who are applying to study for undergraduate courses in social work.
What is it for?	Funds staff to undertake undergraduate study including the Diploma in Social Work or a social work degree.
How much?	Basic award of up to £4,975 if studying at a London-based Higher Education Institute and £4,575 if studying at a Higher Education Institute based outside of London. Part-time courses are funded on a pro rata basis dependent on length of study and course. Awards are also dependent on whether the student is subject to variable tuition fees.
Conditions/restrictions	Not eligible if studying on a work-based or direct Open University course. There is a long list of criteria that needs to be met, including the requirement to not receive certain support from employers and from other sources such as the Children's Workforce Development Council. Please see <a href="http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students/1717.aspx">www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students/1717.aspx</a> for full details.
Open to local support and development organisations?	Not relevant
Support network projects?	Not relevant
Deadline	31 March 2012
Website	<a href="http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx">www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx</a>

---



## Low and no-cost alternatives to support learning and development

In this section we feature a series of creative solutions and alternative approaches to support the learning and development of your workforce. Organisations need to work together to maximise the resources and expertise that already exists within the sector, so that they help and support each other to up-skill staff and volunteers.

*“Working in collaboration with our partners and maximising the skills of our volunteers helps us to achieve low cost workforce development solutions. For example, one of our partners, Care for the Family, gives us two free places at each training course. In return, our more experienced volunteers deliver part of this course with the Care for the Family presenters”.*

Sarah Brighton from drug education charity Hope UK

## Low and no-cost alternatives to support learning and development

- Tip 1** Contact your local volunteer centre to find out what development support is available for **volunteers**. Use the Volunteering England web page, *Find your nearest centre* <http://bit.ly/findyournearestcentre>
- 
- Tip 2** Where they still operate, your Local Safeguarding Children Board may provide **free training on safeguarding and child protection**. Contact your local authority or local support and development organisation for contact details.
- 
- Tip 3** If you work in the **early years sector**, contact your local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (contact details available from your local authority) to find out what training and funding is available. Some operate what are known as Children Information Services. Please note that these services and partnerships may not operate in every area.
- 
- Tip 4** Why not work in **collaboration** with other organisations? For example, you could jointly deliver external training to staff or offer unfilled training places on courses; share the services of in-house employees, e.g. HR, training department; swap work shadowing and mentoring opportunities. Your local, regional or national voluntary sector network might be able to broker contact with organisations for you. Contact [mail@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:mail@ncvys.org.uk) if you need help locating your nearest network.
- 
- Tip 5** **Commission bespoke training** for your organisation, as this may be cheaper than sending individual members of staff on external training courses.
- 
- Tip 6** Allow staff and volunteers to **join a local network** or encourage them to create one. For example, youth workers could come together in a local area to chat informally over a cup of coffee to share and reflect upon their practice and discuss current issues and problems and learn from each other. See the report *Coffee Shop Theology – Christian youth workers meet to reflect on their practice* produced by Nigel Pimlott from Frontier Youth Trust for the Children's Workforce Development Council <http://bit.ly/pimlott>
-



## Low and no-cost alternatives to support learning and development

- Tip 7** If you are a national voluntary organisation and have multiple sites across the country, you could create opportunities for staff and volunteers to **visit another site** and spend a day with a colleague to learn from their practice.
- 
- Tip 8** If you are struggling to find a training course locally, you may wish to **train your own staff to offer the training** instead and have your own trainers for future training delivery. YMCA England's network did just that. To learn more, contact Jimi Ball, email [jimi.ball@england.ymca.org.uk](mailto:jimi.ball@england.ymca.org.uk)
- 
- Tip 9** **Online learning** is often a cheap and time-effective solution to meeting training needs (especially for those learners who are in more rural areas or when an organisation does not have the funds to invest in direct training delivery), however be warned that it does not always meet an individual's learning style. Blended learning options, which include a mixture of face-to-face and online learning, are often found to be best.
- 
- Tip 10** Learning from others – NCVYS has 15 Workforce Development Champions who can provide tips on how to support, train and develop staff and volunteers who work with children, young people and families. Read their **practice-sharing examples** at the NCVYS website [www.ncvys.org.uk/practshar.html](http://www.ncvys.org.uk/practshar.html)
- 
- Tip 11** Research which large training organisations, e.g. **Prime Contractors**, have received funding to up-skill the workforce in your area. They will be looking to achieve their agreed targets and it could be that they will provide either fully funded or part-funded training or qualifications for your employees. To source the names of these contractors, please contact the Skills Funding Agency and ask who has been awarded contracts. In addition, you could try using an internet search engine or your own networking contacts to source these.



## Funding schemes for training providers

This information is aimed at training providers who deliver learning provision to the voluntary and community sector's children, young people and families' workforce.

NCVYS are committed to continuing to support the capacity and sustainability of training providers in the voluntary and community youth sector, building upon our work over the past four years – in particular our Progress project. We are aware that the funding landscape for training providers is complex, so here we aim to briefly explain in simple language the funding opportunities currently available. We hope this information will lead training providers to apply for funding to support workforce development

in the sector, and work in partnership with employers, training consortia and others to make this a reality and better support the young people's workforce.

# Funding schemes for training providers

## How to access government-funded tenders for learning provision

### Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR)

Training providers wishing to tender for education and vocational training services which are government funded (national and European) and managed by agencies – the Skills Funding Agency and Young People’s Learning Agency – must be registered on ACTOR for all of the relevant programmes in order to be considered for funding. Please note that the Young People’s Learning Agency (YPLA) have recently indicated they will look for ACTOR registration as a quality benchmark when commissioning services through local authorities too.

ACTOR stands for the Approved College and Training Organisation Register, which is the online e-tendering application for the procurement of education and vocational training services. ACTOR has replaced all of the previous procurement processes. The aim of ACTOR is to provide a more streamlined and simple process for all potential delivery organisations, reducing bureaucracy and allowing a quicker and more effective procurement of education and training by the agency. Once on the register, organisations may be considered in the procurement exercises that the various agencies carry out, without having to submit additional lengthy, onerous bid information.

To be registered on ACTOR, organisations must have passed a due diligence pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) and have submitted online Invitations to Tender (ITTs) covering the relevant funded programme areas. This is done through the Skills Funding Agency’s e-Tendering portal. Details of how to access the e-Tendering portal and respond to the ACTOR PQQs and ITTs are given in the *Getting Started on ACTOR* document located at <http://bit.ly/GettingstartedonACTOR>

#### Further information:

The Skills Funding Agency has published a briefing note which provides an overview of ACTOR, summarising its purpose, functionality and how it will be used to procure publicly funded education and training provision from training providers <http://bit.ly/ACTORbriefingnote>

### The UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP)

If you are intending to register on ACTOR you will be asked for your UKRLP registration number. Therefore, it is a requirement that you register on UKRLP first. Registration on the UKRLP means that an individual or organisation has been verified against a recognised legal source. The UK Register of Learning Providers is a ‘one-stop’ portal to be used by government departments, agencies, learners, and employers to share key information about learning providers. The UKRLP allows providers to update their information in one place and share this across agencies such as the Skills Funding Agency.

#### Further information:

[www.ukrlp.co.uk/](http://www.ukrlp.co.uk/)

### Contracts Finder

All national government-funded tenders, contracts and funding agreements over £10,000 (including funding which is connected to education and vocational training) are available to view via Contracts Finder [www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/](http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/). This service allows people to search for government-funded opportunities in one place. Organisations can sign up to receive email alerts.

Agencies that manage government-funded contracts related to education and vocational training also alert organisations when tenders are published via their e-bulletins and their websites. It is worth signing up to available e-bulletins, as this allows you not only to access information about funding opportunities, but it will also keep you up to date with wider developments.





# Funding schemes for training providers

## Skills Funding Agency (SFA)

The SFA is an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and their job is to fund and regulate adult further education and skills training in England and to fund the national careers service, Next Step. Therefore, as the majority of the sector's workforce is adults, the funding from this agency is of great interest.

### Checking if a qualification is funded and what subsidy is available

The Skills Funding Agency has produced a guide as to what type of subsidies are available during 2011/12 for learners aged 19 and over in terms of units and qualifications <http://bit.ly/subsidiesguide>

Generally, full funding is available for basic literacy and numeracy qualifications, foundation learning (Entry and Level 1) for young adults who do not hold a Level 2 qualification, and first full Level 2 or full Level 3 qualifications for young adults. Part-subsidies are available for other learners, with individuals or employers expected to co-invest to meet learning costs.

### Minimum Contract Levels

From 2011/12, the Skills Funding Agency is, in most cases, applying a minimum contract value of £500,000 for any provider delivering education and vocational training services and is applied to the following funding streams:

- Adult Learner Responsive
- 16 - 18 Apprenticeships
- Employer Responsive (including Adult Apprenticeships)
- European Social Funding
- Adult Safeguarded Learning including Family Learning Impact Fund and First Steps
- Discretionary Learner Support Funds

Please note that the above is subject to change.

### Further information:

Please read the web page *Update – Statement on Minimum Contract Level Policy* <http://bit.ly/mclstatement>

Whilst for individual training providers within the voluntary and community sector taking on a minimum contract level of £500,000 is not a viable option, many training providers are working as part of consortia arrangements or are securing sub-contracts from Further Education Colleges or other contract holders. Please see page 25 for more information about working in collaboration.

### Learning Aims Database

To check if a specific named qualification is funded for 19+ learners, the Learning Aims Database (LAD) needs to be checked, as only qualifications listed here can be funded. The Learning Aims Database is a record of nationally recognised qualifications that is available to search online. To view it go to <http://providers.lsc.gov.uk/LAD/>

Qualifications are identified for funding on an ongoing basis, so if you are looking for a qualification that has only recently been accredited, the LAD may not yet have been updated with the information you need. However, you can check if it is included on the most recent lists published by the Skills Funding Agency of qualifications that are eligible for 19+ funding. The full list can be found on the Skills Funding Agency website, under 'QCF Qualifications confirmed for public funding' (half way down the web page) <http://bit.ly/qcfqualifications>. This web page also provides details about the funding approval process. Under the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), public funding for post-19-year-olds is targeted at the vocational qualifications that Sector Skills Councils (SSCs), Standard Setting Bodies (SSBs) and Sector Bodies (SBs) have advised should be funded.

Please remember that only contract levels of a minimum of £500,000 are awarded, so it will probably be colleges, larger training providers and training partnerships that will seek the contracts to deliver these funded qualifications (but of course sub-contract opportunities and the chance of joining training consortia is worth exploring).

### Further information:

<http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/>



# Funding schemes for training providers

## Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)

The YPLA is sponsored by the Department for Education and exists to support the delivery of training and education to all 16 - 19-year-olds in England. It funds Academies and supports local authorities to commission suitable education and training opportunities.

Subject to the passage of legislation, the Education Funding Agency will take over responsibility from the YPLA on 1 April 2012 for the funding of young people's education and training, including the increasing number of Academies.

For more information about the Young People's Learning Agency's funding see the *16 - 19 Funding Statement* <http://bit.ly/16-19fundingstatement>

Training providers in the voluntary and community sector are mainly going to be interested in the funding from the Skills Funding Agency when thinking about training the sector's workforce. However, training 16 - 19-year-olds to work in the sector may be of interest, and of course young people may be a client group of the organisation.

### Further information:

[www.ypla.gov.uk/](http://www.ypla.gov.uk/)

---

## The European Social Fund

The European Social Fund (ESF) was set up to improve employment opportunities in the European Union (EU) and so help raise standards of living. It aims to help people fulfil their potential by giving them better skills and job prospects. Although ESF funding is spread across the EU, most money goes to those countries and regions where economic development is less advanced.

There are several objectives (strands of funding) under the ESF:

The **Convergence Objective** aims to develop areas where the economy is lagging behind the rest of the European Union. In England, only Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly benefit from ESF funding under the Convergence Objective.

The **Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective** covers the whole of England, except Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (as they are covered by the Convergence Objective). Within this objective, Merseyside and South Yorkshire benefit from transitional funding as former Objective One regions.

### ESF Funding Allocations 2007 - 2013

Each region has an allocation of ESF money to fund projects. Allocations are based on regional employment and skills needs - for example, the numbers of people not in work and who do not have good qualifications. The ESF allocations are matched with a similar amount of national government funding.

Any public, private or third sector organisation that is legally formed, and able to deliver ESF provision, can apply for funding to a Co-financing Organisation (CFO). CFOs (such as the Skills Funding Agency and some local authorities) make ESF available through a process of open and competitive tendering. If you are successful, you will receive a single stream of funding from the CFO. You do not have to find your own 'match national government funding' as CFOs are responsible for both the ESF and match funding.

### For more information:

*European Social Fund in England* web page hosted by the Department for Work and Pensions [www.dwp.gov.uk/esf/](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/esf/). This web page provides information such as a list of the Co-financing Organisations in England, the funding opportunities available and guidance on how to apply. For example the Skills Funding Agency advises that information from ACTOR will be used to procure adult European Social Fund co-financed skills provision.

# Funding schemes for training providers

## Delivering training as part of apprenticeship frameworks

Delivering training as part of apprenticeship frameworks is increasingly becoming a popular funding and business opportunity for training providers. In this financial year 2011/12, the Government pays 100% of the cost of training for apprentices aged 16 to 18 and 50% of the training costs for apprentices aged 19 and over. However, the minimum contract level for this training is still £500,000 and contracts are issued by the Skills Funding Agency and subject to the tender processes outlined earlier in this section.

The National Apprenticeship Service (whose main role is to work with employers helping them to take on apprentices and to promote apprenticeships) contracts with Apprenticeship Training Associations (ATAs) and Group Training Associations (GTAs). An ATA directly employs and manages individuals who undertake their apprenticeship with an approved Training Provider whilst being hired out to a 'host employer'. The ATA also co-ordinates the training activity for the apprenticeship which is delivered through Skills Funding Agency contracted training providers. A GTA provides support on accessing, managing and delivering training for a group of employers to encourage their involvement in apprenticeships.

### Fair Train

We are fortunate that we have a Group Training Association called Fair Train that represents training providers from the voluntary and community sector. A Fair Train training provider is one that has been assessed and endorsed by Fair Train as being fit to work with VCS employers. Fair Train training providers have agreed to put the needs of voluntary and community organisations first, and have signed up to deliver the Fair Train principles, which include delivering quality training at a fair price and not for profit. There are Fair Train training providers in each of the English regions. It is worthwhile considering applying to become a Fair Train training provider either using your own contract from the Skills Funding Agency, or being part of a wider consortium under Fair Train.

### Further information:

Fair Train website  
[www.fairtrain.org/provide\\_training](http://www.fairtrain.org/provide_training)

National Apprenticeship Service website  
[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

Skills-Third Sector's apprenticeship web page  
<http://bit.ly/skillsthirdsectorapprenticeships>

---

## Next Step Programme

Next Step is the government-funded adult careers service and provides information, advice and resources (which includes Lifelong Learning Accounts) to help adults make more effective choices about learning and careers. The service is available online, by telephone or face-to-face and is free of charge.

The Skills Funding Agency is responsible for the commissioning, contracting and performance management of Next Step. They contract with Prime Contractors for the delivery of the face-to-face advice service, who in turn are responsible for the engagement of sub-contractors. There may be a funding opportunity for training providers connected to the Next Step service via a **sub-contract arrangement**. The role of training providers could be to:

- Provide information and promote the Next Step offer
- Capture customer details for those that are interested in the offer and produce an Individual Learner Record (ILR) extract and submit via monthly batch return
- Perform the role of a Learner Registration Body
- Update the Course Directory

Training providers should contact their nearest Prime Contractor (there are 12 in total across the country). Please see page 9 for a list of the Prime Contractors within the *Skills Funding Agency Communication Briefing: Introduction to Next Step, the integrated adult careers service* <http://bit.ly/introductiontonextstep>

### Further information:

Next Step web page from the Skills Funding Agency  
<http://bit.ly/nextsteppage>

Provider Guidance  
<http://bit.ly/providerguidance>

## Funding schemes for training providers

### Funding changes – government subsidies and loans

It is expected that in 2013/14, the funding system for learning will change, as a result of the Government introducing loans (to replace government subsidies) to assist individuals to pay for learning. These plans were outlined in the consultation paper *New Challenges, New Chances: next steps in implementing the further education reform programme*, published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) <http://bit.ly/newchallengesnewchances>. On page 15 the Government announced:

*“Government-backed loans will be introduced from 2013/14 and will apply to provision at Level 3 /4 for those aged 24 and over, including Access to HE courses as well as Advanced and Higher Level Apprenticeships. The loans will mirror arrangements for HE loans and so will only be repaid once the learner has finished the training and is earning a good salary”.*

There are other funding changes proposed, such as changes to Level 2 funding arrangements from 2012/13. It is certainly worth reading the implementation plan and skills investment statement expected to be published in the autumn of 2011, following the consultation of *New Challenges, New Chances*.

#### Tip

It is strongly advised that training providers should always keep up to date with government policy connected to learning and skills, as this indicates what is likely to be funded in the future. You can do this in a number of ways: by regularly looking at the relevant government departments' web pages, i.e. BIS, and signing up to email alerts from the Skills Funding Agency and NCVYS's monthly e-bulletin *Snippets*, which provides the voluntary and community youth sector with workforce development-related news. To sign up to *Snippets*, email [mail@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:mail@ncvys.org.uk)

# Funding schemes for training providers

## Collaboration

Training providers are increasingly looking to collaborate with others in order to either gain sub-contracts, e.g. from FE Colleges, or work as part of consortia arrangements, particularly when minimum contract levels of £500,000 or more are beyond the scale of some training providers within the sector. Partnership working does have its challenges and seeking new collaborations takes time and is not without risk. We know, for example, how difficult it is for the sector to gain contracts from FE Colleges and this is something NCVYS and the Third Sector National Learning Alliance (TSNLA) are trying to improve through their policy-influencing work.

The Third Sector National Learning Alliance, of which NCVYS is a member, is the voice for voluntary and community sector learning and skills providers. TSNLA's present key activities are focused around the introduction of Minimum Contract Levels and their impact on training providers in the VCS and the staff and volunteers, the changes in ESF procurement, and supporting smaller independent training providers in collaborative contracting.

NCVYS are developing our information provision and services to training providers and are working with a number of training partnerships to help scale up their training operation in 2011 - 12. We will make the learning from this activity widely available, but if you would like to know more in the interim please contact NCVYS's Training and Accreditation Development Officers – email [elena@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:elena@ncvys.org.uk) (Elena Carpenter) or [isabelle@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:isabelle@ncvys.org.uk) (Isabelle King).

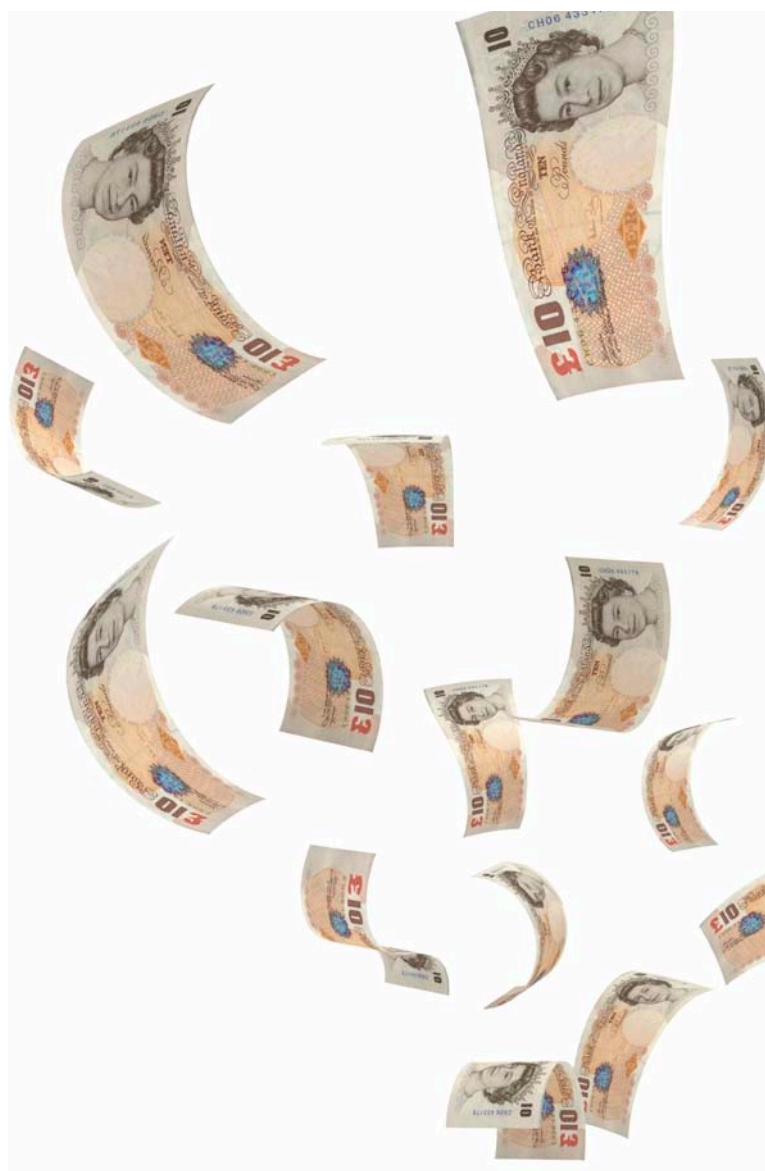
If collaboration is something you wish to explore, there is lots of information available. A good starting point is to use the Excellence Gateway provided by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS), which is useful for finding advice, resources and support for your day-to-day work in the learning and skills sector. They have a web page dedicated to working with others <http://bit.ly/workingwithothers> or you can type 'consortia' in the search box. They also have a web page full of resources aimed at supporting smaller independent training providers in collaborative contracting <http://bit.ly/collaborativecontracting>

### Further information:

LSIS – Excellence Gateway  
[www.excellencegateway.org.uk/](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/)

Third Sector National Learning Alliance  
[www.tsnla.org.uk/tsnla](http://www.tsnla.org.uk/tsnla)

National Council for Voluntary Youth Services  
[www.ncvys.org.uk](http://www.ncvys.org.uk) (in particular view the workforce development and training sections). To discuss further NCVYS's policy work connected to learning and skills, please contact Gethyn Williams, Director of Workforce Development, email [gethyn@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:gethyn@ncvys.org.uk)







## Funding for learners

The funding schemes listed under this section are directly aimed at staff and volunteers within the voluntary and community sector (VCS) children, young people and families' workforce. It is funding that will support their learning and development, for instance by helping to improve their leadership skills, to pay towards the cost of qualifications or to experience working in a similar organisation in Europe.

Some of the schemes may be aimed at young people, e.g. Prince's Trust Development Awards, but we have still included them as many young people work as volunteers in the VCS and are keen to develop their skills and aim for a career working with children and young people.

Learners should be prepared that their employers may ask them to contribute towards learning costs. Due to a reduction in the amount of public funding available, there is an expectation that learners and employers will either fully fund or co-invest, e.g. pay 50% of the costs of training, in particular training at intermediate and higher levels.

## Discretionary Learner Support – further education (vocational)

Funder	<b>Apply directly to the college or learning provider</b>
Who can apply?	Individuals aged 16 years and above who face financial hardship and have been accepted onto and are studying a programme of learning funded by the Young People's Learning Agency.
What is it for?	Support is available to help with the cost of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• childcare</li><li>• travel</li><li>• books</li><li>• equipment</li><li>• other essentials for your studies.</li></ul>
How much?	Decided by the college or learning provider.
Conditions/restrictions	To be eligible to apply, you must be aged 16 or over. Other conditions listed on website.
Website	<a href="http://bit.ly/financialhelpforadultlearners">http://bit.ly/financialhelpforadultlearners</a>

---

## European Voluntary Service (EVS)

Funder	<b>British Council</b>
Who can apply?	Volunteers aged 18 to 30 wishing to do voluntary service in Europe and for organisations wishing to send or host volunteers.
What is it for?	To support non-formal learning experiences for young volunteers by providing the opportunity to volunteer abroad (primarily in Europe) for a period of two to 12 months.
How much?	There is no cost to the volunteer. However, EVS is undertaken on the principle of co-financing. This means that the host and sending organisations will have to contribute to the funding of the project.
Conditions/restrictions	Volunteers need to register with an accredited European Voluntary Service organisation within the UK – see the website for more details.  Organisations need to submit an Expression of Interest Form.
Deadline	1 February, April, June, September and November.
Website	<a href="http://bit.ly/europeanvoluntaryservice">http://bit.ly/europeanvoluntaryservice</a>

## Early Years Professional Status

Funder	<b>Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)</b>
What is it for?	Available to individuals to study full time to become early years graduate professionals.
How much?	Fully funded course with up to £5,000 bursary (check with training provider).
Conditions/restrictions	Available through higher education providers. Please note that not all colleges and universities may offer the course.
Deadline	Apply any time.
Website	Refer to your local university or FE college or contact the CDWC at <a href="http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/eyps">www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/eyps</a>

---

## Fellowship funding for professionals

Funder	<b>Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship Scheme</b>
Who can apply?	Applicants need to be at least 18 and a UK resident.
What is it for?	Provides professionals with the opportunity to travel overseas (normally for a period of four to eight weeks) and undertake study projects related to their profession, trade or interest. Eligible categories are announced around May each year. For 2012, there are ten eligible categories including community work, education and vocational training.
How much?	The trust awards around 100 fellowships each year and in 2009 the average grant for a fellowship was £5,500.
Conditions/restrictions	Fellows must demonstrate the worth of their project, submit a report on the findings and disseminate it widely, start and complete projects within a year and join their local Association of Churchill Fellows.
Deadline	October each year.
Website	<a href="http://www.wcmt.org.uk">www.wcmt.org.uk</a>

## City and Guilds Individual Learner Bursaries

Funder	<b>City and Guilds</b>
Who can apply?	Individuals with financial problems aged 16 and over, enrolled or intending to enrol, on a relevant City and Guilds course and who are currently living in the UK.
What is it for?	To enable those on low incomes to study for a City and Guilds qualification. Help may be available with: course fees; child care; travel; and the cost of equipment or materials.
How much?	Depends on course and support needed.
Conditions/restrictions	Only a limited number available – selection by interview.
Deadline	Applications are considered twice a year – in April and September.
Website	<a href="http://www.cityandguilds.com/42758.html">www.cityandguilds.com/42758.html</a>

---

## Clore Social Leadership Programme (Fellowship)

Funder	<b>Clore Duffield Foundation</b>
Who can apply?	The Fellowship Programme aims to identify, develop and connect aspiring leaders (paid or unpaid) in the voluntary and community sector who are working for the benefit of individuals and communities.
What is it for?	The Fellowship Programme is made up of core elements that meet the individual development needs of aspiring leaders, including mentoring, residential sessions and coaching support.
How much?	Awards of up to £20,000 for a full-time Fellowship and £15,000 for a part-time Fellowship.
Conditions/restrictions	Resident in the UK and endorsed by a nominee; needs the support of an employer and two referees. Work must not be exclusively faith-based.
Deadline	Around June 2012.
Website	<a href="http://www.cloresocialleadership.org.uk/">www.cloresocialleadership.org.uk/</a>



## Prince's Trust Development Awards

Funder	<b>Prince's Trust</b>
Who can apply?	Young people aged between 14 and 25 years.
What is it for?	To help young people into education or develop skills for employment.
How much?	Grants up to £500 are available although funding for awards varies depending on region. Please check the regional web pages for more information.
Conditions/restrictions	Only funds those aged 14 - 16 and not expecting to achieve five GCSEs at grades A–C and those aged 16 - 25 who are not in education or training or who are working less than 16 hours a week.
Deadline	Any time. Decision within four to six weeks.
Website	<a href="http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/">www.princes-trust.org.uk/</a>

---

## Professional and Career Development Loan

Funder	<b>Skills Funding Agency and banks</b>
Who can apply?	Individuals only.
What is it for?	Learning that improves career prospects. The loan can help to fund a wide range of courses lasting up to two years (or three years, if the course includes a year of work experience).
How much?	£300 to £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency pays the interest on the loan whilst applicants learn. Applicants are then responsible for repaying the loan over an agreed period at a fixed rate of interest.
Conditions/restrictions	Only 80% of course fees can be covered, but the loan can include other related course costs and living expenses of up to 100% if you've been unemployed for three months. Must be over 18 years of age.
Website	<a href="http://bit.ly/careerdevelopmentloans">http://bit.ly/careerdevelopmentloans</a>

## Student Finance – Higher Education

Funder	<b>Student Finance England and various sources of funding e.g. government, bursary from university, scholarship</b>
Who can apply?	Individuals aged 18 years and above.
What is it for?	<p>Full-time and part-time higher education students can apply for loans, grants, bursaries and scholarships to cover their tuition fees and living costs.</p> <p>Funding available depending upon a number of factors such as your circumstances and type of course. For example, extra financial help may be available if you have a disability or children or adults depending on you.</p>
How much?	<p>Varies – depending upon type of funding and the funder. An example is a Maintenance Grant. Full-time students starting their course after 1 September 2012 can apply for a Maintenance Grant to help with living costs. Maintenance Grants are available to students whose household income is £42,875 or less.</p> <p>The maximum Maintenance Grant is £3,250 if your household income is under £25,000.</p> <p>The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) helps students whose family income is £25,000 a year or less. Universities and colleges decide who to give financial help to from this group. Apply directly to them.</p> <p>If you are studying a higher education course in social work you may be able to apply for a bursary.</p> <p>Universities operate bursary and scholarship schemes e.g. the Open University has an Access to Learning Fund.</p>
Conditions/restrictions	Varies depending upon type of funding and funder.
Website	<a href="http://bit.ly/studentfinanceengland">http://bit.ly/studentfinanceengland</a>

---

## Training bursaries for sport volunteers

Funder	<b>Torch Trophy Trust</b>
Who can apply?	Individuals or organisations that are unable to obtain funding from any other source.
What is it for?	To help volunteers to improve their skills as coaches or officials who are unable to do so without funding. The bursaries provide financial support for those wishing to undertake training.
How much?	A limited number of grants are available each year, ranging from £100 to £1,000. Funds are not usually awarded for more than 50% of a project's total costs.  If you are studying a higher education course in social work you may be able to apply for a bursary.  Universities operate bursary and scholarship schemes e.g. the Open University has an Access to Learning Fund.
Conditions/restrictions	Applications must be supported with a letter from the relevant governing body.
Deadline	None stated.
Website	<a href="http://www.torchtrophytrust.org/">www.torchtrophytrust.org/</a>

---

## Learndirect – functional skills courses in maths, English and computer skills

Funder	<b>University for Industry (government funded)</b>
Who can apply?	Anyone 16 and over who has been identified as having functional skills needs.
What is it for?	Anyone who wants to improve their functional skills i.e. in English, maths, computing and IT.
How much?	Many courses are free – either available online or at a local learning centre.
Conditions/restrictions	None known.
Deadline	Apply any time.
Website	<a href="http://www.learndirect.co.uk">www.learndirect.co.uk</a>
Telephone	0800 100 900



## Future funding and developments

New funding schemes are often announced and on the next page we explain how you can keep up to date with any funding announcements connected to workforce development.

*“Policy announcements from the Government can indicate their funding priorities, so it is therefore important to keep an eye on these developments. Using the information services from NCVYS can help you do that and save you time.”*

Dom Weinberg, Policy Officer, NCVYS, and author of the *NCVYS Funding Update*, *Policy Bulletin* and contributor to the workforce development e-bulletin – *Snippets*.



# Future funding and developments

## Future funding schemes

The following two funding schemes are worth keeping an eye on in 2012:

### Investment and Contract Readiness Fund

Announced by Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society – a £10m fund is being made available to charities and social enterprises to help them **develop the skills** and infrastructure **to win more capital investment and public service contracts**. The Investment and Contract Readiness Fund will operate over three years from April 2012. More information

<http://bit.ly/10millionkickstart>

### Social Action Fund

In October 2011, the Government announced details of the £24m Social Action Fund, which is being administered by the Social Investment Business. The Fund aims to inspire organisations to create new social action opportunities; encouraging people to give what they have, be it time, money, assets, knowledge or specific skills. One activity expected to be supported under the fund is **training voluntary volunteer managers** to support charities. The second application window opens in the new year. Register your interest to receive further details at

<http://bit.ly/social-action-fund>

---

## Policy developments

The Government's policy is to shift more responsibility for funding learning and skills from the state to individuals and employers. As explained within the Foreword section of this guide, the funding that it does have available will focus on supporting learners with very low levels of skills and the disadvantaged. There is an expectation that learners and employers will fully fund or co-invest alongside Government in meeting the costs of intermediate and higher-level training courses from which they will derive private benefits.

Funding priorities for the children, young people and families' sector remains focused on supporting social care, social work and early years. There are currently no specific funding streams now for the youth sector, following the completion of the £25m CWDC Young People's Workforce Reform Programme (which ended in March 2011). However the Catalyst consortium is developing products and services in relation to workforce development.

Please ensure that you are signed up to receive NCVYS's workforce development e-bulletin *Snippets* (email [mail@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:mail@ncvys.org.uk)), so that you are made aware of any funding opportunities and the products and services that will be created under Catalyst. This e-bulletin also notifies you about policy developments connected to workforce development, which indicates any funding that may be available in the future.

Additionally, the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), and Regional Voices have published a briefing paper to help local voluntary and community organisations find their way through the imminent changes to the NHS and the local commissioning process, which in future may provide some funding opportunities. You can view the briefing at <http://bit.ly/localhealthagenda>



## Sources of additional funding information

There are other resources and places to go for information and advice about funding – in this section we provide some examples, particularly resources that are free of charge. One of those resources is Funding Central, which is a free website provided by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and funded by the Office for Civil Society. This details over 4,000 grants, contracts and loans. As one user from a disability services charity said:

*“The best thing is it’s free! This sounds like a joke but I can’t over-emphasise the importance of small and medium sized charities having access to a good grants search programme.”*

# Sources of additional funding information

## Contacting your local or regional network

There are local and regional networks that provide support to children, young people and families' VCS organisations. They can be referred to as support and development organisations, local infrastructure organisations, umbrella organisations or local networks. Many have access to grant databases such as Grantfinder.

Many networks offer services such as: support to complete funding application forms; funding advice and information; and fundraising training courses. Do not struggle alone and do not be put off by the look of an application form.

To find out which organisations exist in your area, go to:

NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) and view their *Membership Directory* [www.navca.org.uk/membersdirectory](http://www.navca.org.uk/membersdirectory)

National Council for Voluntary Youth Services – email [mail@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:mail@ncvys.org.uk) or ring 020 7278 1041

---

## Internet sources providing free information

**Funding Central** [www.fundingcentral.org.uk](http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk) is a free website for VCS organisations that provides access to funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources. The website is operated by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and funded by the Office for Civil Society.

**Grantnet** [www.grantnet.com](http://www.grantnet.com) is a free grants database available to small VCS organisations once they have registered on the website.

**Grants4 portal** [www.grants4.info](http://www.grants4.info) is an online information service that provides information on funding opportunities that are available in your local area (please note that not all local authorities have taken up the service).

The **National Council for Voluntary Organisations Sustainable Funding Project** provides useful information on fundraising, tips for applying for funding and pointers for funding applications [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp). The project also provides resources and information to support and development organisations, also known as infrastructure organisations or support networks, to help them to support frontline organisations to develop their financial sustainability. For more information see <http://bit.ly/supportforinfrastructure>

The **National Institute of Adult Continuing Education** provides a wide range of information and advice to adult learners: [www.niace.org.uk](http://www.niace.org.uk)

Resources and information connected to **commissioning and procurement** (in particular aimed at development workers in local support and development organisations) can be accessed from the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) website [www.navca.org.uk](http://www.navca.org.uk)

---

## Publications

The **Guide to Educational Grants** is published annually by the Directory of Social Change. It is usually available in the reference section of local libraries, through learning centres, or available to purchase from the Directory of Social Change (£75.00). The Directory of Social Change has also published the **Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need** (also £75.00). Order from [www.dsc.org.uk](http://www.dsc.org.uk) or ring 0845 0777707.

The **Hollis Sponsorship and Donations Yearbook** lists a variety of sponsorship and donation opportunities and is available in libraries or from good bookstores.





## Thanks and contact details

### Thanks

This funding guide has been written by Nichola Brown, Workforce Development Officer at NCVYS and David Johnson from Route Consultancy Ltd. The guide has been designed by Moira Hunter at wordforword design. Input has been gratefully received from the following staff at NCVYS: Gethyn Williams, Rob Candy, Selena Brown, Dom Weinberg, Elena Carpenter and Faiza Chaudary.

### Feedback

Have you been successful in applying for funding as a result of using this funding guide? If so, share your success with us! Do you have any comments to make to help us improve this funding guide? – tell us what works or doesn't work. If so, please email [nichola@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:nichola@ncvys.org.uk)

### Equal Opportunities

If you require this information in different formats or have any other needs, please contact Nichola Brown, email [nichola@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:nichola@ncvys.org.uk) or ring 020 7278 1041.

### Disclaimer

The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) has made every reasonable effort to ensure that the information contained within this funding guide is accurate. However, the information has been compiled from a variety of sources and there may be errors or omissions. NCVYS and the consultant acting on behalf of NCVYS cannot accept responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of the material contained herein. If you are aware of any inaccuracies please email [nichola@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:nichola@ncvys.org.uk)





Established in 1936, the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services is a diverse and growing network of over 280 national organisations and regional and local networks that work with and for young people. NCVYS is the only national independent body that represents voluntary and community youth organisations in England. Our mission is to work with our members from voluntary and community organisations to build thriving communities and sustainable networks that help all young people achieve their potential.

NCVYS  
3rd Floor  
Lancaster House  
33 Islington High Street  
London N1 9LH

T: 020 7278 1041  
F: 020 7833 2491  
E: [mail@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:mail@ncvys.org.uk)  
[www.ncvys.org.uk](http://www.ncvys.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1093386  
Registered company no. 4385383