



# 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme

# Call for Proposals European Social Fund

# **Priority Axis 1: Inclusive Labour Markets**

Managing Authority	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
ESI Fund	European Social Fund
Priority Axis:	Priority Axis 1 : Inclusive Labour Markets
Investment Priority:	1.2 Sustainable Integration of Young People into the Labour Market
Call Reference:	Cheshire & Warrington - IP1.2 Sustainable Integration of Young People into the Labour Market
	OC03S18P1133
LEP Area:	Cheshire and Warrington
Call Opens:	9th July 2018
Call Closes:	28th September 2018
Document Submission	Completed Outline Applications must be submitted to ⊠: 2014-2020.esfapplications@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

# **Contents**

- 1. Call Context
  - 1.1 National Context
  - 1.2 Local Development Need
  - 1.3 Scope of Activity
- 2. Call Requirements
- 3. Required Deliverables
- 4. General Information
  - 4.1 Compliance and Eligibility
  - 4.2 Intervention Rate & Match Funding
  - 4.3 Applicants
  - **4.4 Cross Cutting Themes**
  - 4.5 State Aid
  - 4.6 Funding Agreement
  - 4.7 Procurement
  - 4.8 Retrospection
- 5. Application Process & Prioritisation Methodology
- 6. Support
- 7. Key Documents
- 8. Document Checklist
- 9. Document Submission
- 10. Timescales
- 11. Appendix A Common output indicators

## 1. Call Context

The 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) bring the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) together into a single European Union (EU) Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) Growth Programme for England supporting the key growth priorities of innovation, research and development, support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), low carbon, skills, employment, and social inclusion.

European Structural and Investment Funds are managed by the Department for Communities and Government (ERDF), Department for Work and Pensions (ESF) and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (EAFRD). In London, the Greater London Authority acts as an Intermediate Body for the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund programmes. Unless stated otherwise, the term "Managing Authority" will apply to all these organisations. These Departments are the Managing Authorities for each Fund. The Managing Authorities work closely with local partners who provide:

- Practical advice and information to the Managing Authorities to assist in the preparation of local plans that contribute towards Operational Programme priorities and targets;
- Local intelligence to the Managing Authorities in the development of project calls (decided by the Managing Authorities) that reflect Operational Programme and local development needs as well as match funding opportunities;
- Advice on local economic growth conditions and opportunities within the context of Operational Programmes and the local ESIF Strategy to aid the Managing Authority's assessments at outline and full application stage.

This call is issued by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to commission ESF Funded projects that will support the **Priority Axis 1 of the Operational Programme: Inclusive Labour Markets** and **Investment Priority: 1.2 Sustainable Integration into the Labour Market of Young People** as set out in the Operational Programme.

All applications will need to be eligible under the European Social Fund Operational Programme for England 2014 to 2020. The <u>ESF Operational Programme</u> is available for applicants to read.

This call for proposal sets out the requirements for any applicants to consider before applying. Applications against this call will be assessed as part of a two stage appraisal process and successful applicants will enter into a funding agreement with the DWP. Further information is given in sections 4 to 10.

All ESF applicants will need to be aware of the requirement to collect and report data on all participants as per Annex 1 (see Appendix A). This will be as well as the requirement of reporting on output and result indicators referred to in section 3 of the call for proposal.

#### 1.1 National Context

This priority axis aims to increase participation in the labour market and thereby improve social inclusion and mobility. The Operational Programme identifies the need to address high levels of youth unemployment in specific areas of England this will be delivered through the following Investment priority:

**Investment priority 1.2** Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

ESF will not fund activity that duplicates or cuts across national policy on grants and loans for tuition for skills activities. Exemptions to this principle will be considered only where a local specific need and/or market failure has been demonstrated and where the activity falls within the scope of the Operational Programme.

Full details of what can and cannot be supported under this Investment Priority are set out in the Operational Programme. Details of the specific objectives have been reproduced below.

Specific Objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
To support the rise in the participation age by providing additional traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities	The additional support from this investment priority will help more young people enter traineeships and apprenticeships (in areas that do not qualify for the Youth Employment Initiative up to 2018). It will improve the quality of what is offered to individuals by improving recruitment and assessment and engagement with employers. By helping more young participants aged 15 to 24, male and female, who were NEET or at risk of NEET, to take up traineeships or apprenticeships, we will improve movements into work.
To engage marginalised 15-18 year olds and support them to reengage with education or training	The additional support from this investment priority will help to find and engage young people who are disconnected from mainstream activity in areas that do not qualify for the Youth Employment Initiative. Participants could, for example, be members of gangs, care leavers, young lone parents, ex-offenders or young people with learning difficulties. They are likely to require more intensive and tailored interventions. The main result that will be achieved is that more participants will be engaged with education or training on leaving, and this will be measured by the result target.

To address the basic skills needs of young NEETS so that they can compete effectively in the labour market;

The additional support from this investment priority will help young NEETs (in areas that do not qualify for the Youth Employment Initiative up to 2018) to acquire the basic skills necessary to enable them to progress into an apprenticeship, traineeship or other employment. The main result that will be achieved is that more participants will have gained basic skills. There is an output target for participants without basic skills and a result target for participants gaining basic

skills.

To provide additional work experience and pre-employment training opportunities to unemployed 18-24 year olds

The additional support from this investment priority will help unemployed 18-24 year olds (in areas that do not qualify for the Youth Employment Initiative up to 2018) to transition into training or sustainable employment (or self-employment). The main result that will be achieved is that more participants will enter traineeships, apprenticeships or sustainable employment (including self-employment) on leaving.

To support young lone parents to overcome the barriers they face in participating in the labour market (including childcare).

The additional support from this investment priority will help young lone parents (in areas that do not qualify for the Youth Employment Initiative up to 2018) to move closer to and into sustainable employment (including self-employment). Support will include assistance with childcare when this has not been covered by public provision, such as Universal Credit. It will also help participants to overcome other barriers, such as low basic skills or lack of confidence. The main result that will be achieved is that more participants will move into sustainable employment (including self-employment). There is an output target for the number of lone parents.

# 1.2 Local Development Need

Projects must deliver activity which directly contributes to the objectives of Priority Axis 1, Investment Priority 1.2 of the Operational Programme, and which meets the **local development need** expressed in the text and table below.

#### **Call outline**

The Cheshire & Warrington Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan and the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy represent a bold, ambitious and agreed economic growth agenda. The aim is to capitalise on the area's considerable growth potential; to become a £50bn economy by 2040, with

employment opportunities for all those that want to work, and be recognised as a modern, strong and attractive location.

If Cheshire and Warrington is to achieve its economic potential, it requires all people of working age to make a positive contribution. This requirement is particularly pressing in the context of an ageing population which presents the prospect of a declining working age population over the next decade, for the first time in recent history.

As well as the need to ensure that there are sufficient highly skilled and adaptive people to fill the 120,000 new jobs that are forecast by 2040, there will also be replacement demand from over 230,000 jobs by 2025. The forecast growth and replacement demand for labour will be a major challenge with a current population growth rate of 4.2% (barely half the national rate) and with only 160,000 young people aged 5 to 18 years old in our schools.

Although Cheshire and Warrington has not faced the scale of worklessness challenges reported in some other parts of the country, pockets of worklessness are present. There are persistent pockets of worklessness in the sub-region including high concentrations of unemployment in parts of Warrington, Ellesmere Port and Crewe.

In April 2018, there were 2,205 18-24 year olds claiming out of work benefits across the Cheshire and Warrington LEP area (<a href="www.nomisweb.co.uk">www.nomisweb.co.uk</a>). In March 2018 Cheshire and Warrington also had 896 16-17 year olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) according to the National Client Caseload Information System (NCCIS). In addition to this, NEET figures are rising in some parts of the sub region and more young people are at risk of becoming NEET.

These young people, living in Cheshire and Warrington, represent a significant number of individuals who are not benefiting from, or contributing to, the growth in the local economy.

Cheshire and Warrington LEP seeks a 'joined up' employment support and skills provision offer that is designed specifically to address the complex needs of these young people within our communities, which tackles the entrenched issues of exclusion, lack of aspiration, inspiration and multiple disadvantage.

Cheshire and Warrington is seeking proposals for tailored, personalised and flexible support to ensure that the resilience of young people is developed to enable them to take up a range of employment or training options. This support would need to be delivered closely in line with existing LA engagement services, and demonstrate how it complements any other provision/projects which may be also be supporting young people in the Cheshire and Warrington area.

#### **Local Priorities:**

The local priorities to be addressed through this Open Call are:

- Provision of intensive, innovative, holistic and tailored support to young people who are NEET or at risk of NEET; and also focus on those young people aged up to 24, who are disengaged from mainstream activity for example care leavers, lone

parents, carers, ex-offenders or young people with learning difficulties and/or mental health barriers.

- Supporting young people, aged up to 24, to acquire skills (basic, intermediate and technical) needed by Cheshire and Warrington growth sectors' employers or to help them into self-employment and/or link learning to work experience including volunteering
- Provide support and a range of soft skills to disadvantaged young people to overcome the barriers to engagement, such as lack of childcare, transport, confidence building, motivation and health issues.

Project activity delivered under this funding call should focus on those priority sectors identified in the Cheshire and Warrington Strategic Economic Plan where appropriate – but provision should also take account of other sectors with emerging recruitment needs and skills shortages, including –

Construction Health Social care

Project activity must be easily accessible across the whole sub-region and therefore take account of the mixed geography of Cheshire and Warrington. Applicants should demonstrate how they will ensure effective coverage for young people in rural areas, including transport solutions such as subsidised bus services or help with travel costs.

Applications are encouraged from consortia or other similar types of partnership arrangements which can build on, and add value to, existing types of support and provision. In each such case the application must be submitted by a lead organisation on behalf of the partnership/consortia and the lead applicant must have the financial capacity to meet the required Due Diligence criteria.

Applicants must work in partnership to add value to, but not compete with existing provision. Applicants will be expected to evidence linkages with key stakeholders, a strong understanding of local needs and priorities, and to demonstrate how they will work collaboratively to identify the most appropriate pathway for participants and avoid confusion in the market place.

Applicants will need to work with any ESF projects supporting careers advice for young people to avoid duplication and ensure consistent information and advice is being given to young people.

This call for ESF investment has been issued with a complementary call under ESF Investment Priority (IP) 1.4. Applicants can apply against both or individual calls, Investment Priorities 1.2 (Sustainable Integration of Young People into the Labour Market) and IP 1.4 (Active Inclusion).

Successful applicants will be required to identify a named contact who will meet regularly with Cheshire and Warrington LEP and, more specifically, provide updates to the Skills and Education Board to help ensure local accountability and employer involvement in shaping the delivery of their project.

Details of the local ESIF Strategy can be found at <a href="http://www.871candwep.co.uk/investment-programmes/european-structural-and-investment-funds/">http://www.871candwep.co.uk/investment-programmes/european-structural-and-investment-funds/</a>

Details of the LEP Education and Skills Plan can be found at http://www.871candwep.co.uk/resources/skills-education-plan/

## 1.3 Scope of activity

This call invites Outline Applications which support the delivery of Priority Axis 1, Investment Priority 1.2 Sustainable Integration of Young People into the Labour Market of the European Social Fund Operational Programme and responds to the local development need set out in the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Area European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy.

This call aims to address the identified shortfalls listed in section 1.2 Local Development Need above.

# 2. Call Requirements

All applications are competitive

Indicative Fund Allocation:	Indicatively, through this call the Managing Authority expects to allocate approximately £ 2.552m ESF.
	The Managing Authority reserves the right to increase or decrease the indicative allocation, or support more or fewer projects subject to the volume and quality of proposals received.
Minimum application level	European Social Fund investment is intended to make a significant impact on local growth. Applications are expected to demonstrate appropriate scale and impact. The Managing Authority does not intend to allocate less than £500,000 of European Social Funding to any single project.
	Applications requesting an ESF amount below the 'Minimum Application Level' will be rejected. It is important to ensure a range of activity is supported as detailed in the call and also the need for coherence. Therefore the MA favours a small number of projects being delivered.
	As this call is linked to another call - spanning two Investment Priorities, applicants will need to provide separate financial and indicator tables per Investment Priority.

Duration of project	Projects should be for a maximum of three years; however the Managing Authority reserves the right to vary the maximum duration in exceptional circumstances.	
Geographical Scope	All interventions should be focused on activity and beneficiaries within the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership area.	
Specific call requirements	This call for ESF investment has been issued with a complementary call under ESF Investment Priority 1.4 - OC03S18P1134. Priority will be given to applicants that submit linked proposals across the priorities. See 'Local Priorities' section for further information.	
Call Deadlines	For this specific call, applications will be assessed following closure of the call. Applications received after the published call close date will not be considered.	
Application selection	All applications will be scored in line with the ESF scoring criteria, but the MA reserve the right to invite projects to full application stage where they complement other activity or provide niche activity to target groups within the OP.	
Applicant proposals	These can only contain activities which are eligible for ESF.	
Eligible match funding	Applicants will need to have eligible match funding for the balance of costs, which must be from a source other than the European Union. At outline application stage the applicant will need to provide information to demonstrate that the operation is likely to have the required level of match funding in place at the point of formal approval.	
Operational completion	Operations must be completed no later than 3 years and 6 months after the proposed project start date.	
Procurement	All procurement must be undertaken in line with EU regulations.	
State Aid law	Applicants must demonstrate compliance with State Aid law.	
Audit/ Compliance	All expenditure and activities will be subject to rigorous audit and non-compliance may lead to financial penalty.	

ESF cannot be used to duplicate existing activities or activities that do not address market failure. ESF can only be used to achieve additional activity or bring forward activity more quickly. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that proposals are additional to activity that would have occurred anyway or enables activity to be brought forward and delivered more quickly than otherwise would be the case in response to opportunity or demand.

# 3. Deliverables required under this Call:

Applications will be expected to achieve the minimum indicative level of Programme Deliverables by contributing to the following Investment Priority. The definitions of which can be accessed at the ESF Operational Programme.

Investment	1.2 Sustainable Integration Of Young People Into The	
Priority	Labour Market	
Specific Objectives	Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	
Indicative	ESF will not support activities that duplicate or replace existing	
Actions	support within national programmes, but may be used to support additional activities or target groups, including provision codesigned with local partners.	
	Examples of actions for all young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET include:	
	<ul> <li>literacy, numeracy, ICT and employability provision to ensure that individuals have the basic skills needed in all jobs and to help them prepare for apprenticeships and progress through other routes to gaining higher skills;</li> <li>support which complements other skills provision, such as crosscutting and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, including team working, effective communication, problem solving, critical thinking and self-direction;</li> <li>training and vocational qualifications to equip young people for specific jobs;</li> <li>support for young women to enter non-traditional sectors (e.g. construction, logistics and engineering) which addresses barriers to entry e.g. to apply for apprenticeships;</li> <li>community and informal learning to engage young people who have struggled at school and encourage them to access more formal learning;</li> <li>intermediate labour market activity to provide a structured and supportive environment where young people can gain work experience;</li> <li>using self-employment as a route out of worklessness, including providing advice and support for self-employment</li> </ul>	

#### Results Table -

ID	Result Indicator	Minimum Target value for this call
R3	Participants gaining basic skills	4%
R5	Participants (below 25 years of age) in employment, including self-employment, or education/ training upon leaving	43%
ESF-CR06	Participants in employment, including self-employment, 6 months after leaving	34%

# Outputs table -

		Total Minimum	Men	Women
ID	Output Indicator	target value for	minimum	minimum
		this call	target value	target value
O2	Participants (below 25 years of age) who are unemployed or inactive	3869	1935	1934
ESF -CO01	Unemployed, including long-term unemployed	2708	-	-
ESF – CO03	Inactive	1161	-	-
O5	Participants from ethnic minorities	174	-	-
ESF - CO16	Participants with disabilities	359	-	-
O6	Participants without basic skills	717		
ESF - CO14	Participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	144	-	-

Applicants will be required to demonstrate how they will achieve the deliverables within their proposal along with any methodology that will be used to record

achievement. Applicants will also need to ensure robust systems are in place, and be able to describe them, to capture and record the targets and to report quantitative and qualitative performance across the Cheshire and Warrington LEP area. All operations will be required to collect data and report progress against the deliverables with each claim. Where an operation underperforms against their deliverables they may be subject to a performance penalty.

There must be a fully evidenced audit trail for all contracted deliverables.

## 4. General Information

Essential information to support the drafting of an application and delivery of a successful ESF funded project is available at the <a href="European Growth Funding">European Growth Funding</a> website pages.

## 4.1 Compliance and Eligibility

When developing an application, Applicants should refer to <u>guidance</u> on eligible Applicants, activities and costs. These are for guidance only and Applicants should take their own specialist advice if in doubt. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the rules and guidance are adhered to both at application stage and following approval.

European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) are governed by European regulations and national rules. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the relevant documentation listed in the 'key documents' section prior to submitting an Outline application. If successful, Applicants will enter into the standard Funding Agreement and must abide by the standard terms and conditions contained therein. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to read these terms and conditions to ensure that they would be able to enter into such an agreement prior to responding to the call. Once a Funding Agreement has been issued it should be signed and returned within a short timescale.

# 4.2 Intervention Rate & Match Funding

ESF is funding used where no other funding can be obtained (the funder of last resort) and the maximum ESF intervention rate for the operation is 50%. This means ESF can contribute <u>up to</u> 50% of the total eligible project costs, subject to State Aid regulations. The remaining 50% or more must come from other eligible sources. For all outline applications, the applicant will need to provide information to demonstrate that the operation is likely to have the required level of match funding in place at the point of formal approval.

ESF is not paid in advance and expenditure must be defrayed prior to the submission of any claims. Applicants may be asked to demonstrate how they are able to cash flow the operation.

### 4.3 Applicants

Applicants must be legally constituted at the point of signing a Funding Agreement, and be able to enter into a legally binding Funding Agreement. The Applicant will be the organisation that, if the application is successful, enters into a contract for ESF and therefore carries the liability for ensuring that the terms of the ESF Funding Agreement are met by them and to all delivery partners. If there is more than one organisation applying for the funds, a lead organisation must be selected to become the Applicant. It is this organisation that carries the responsibility and liability for carrying out a compliant project.

The Managing Authority will consider the Applicant's track record, both positive and negative. If the Applicant has been involved in the delivery of previous European grants and any irregularities with this (these) grant(s) have been identified, the Managing Authority will look into these and expect to see how and what steps have been taken to ensure that these have been addressed to mitigate the risk of further irregularities in the future. It is acknowledged that some organisations will be new to ESIF funding and will not have a track record.

## 4.4 Cross Cutting Themes

All applications received under this Call should demonstrate how the Cross Cutting Themes have been addressed in the project design and development. Cross cutting themes for ESF are 'gender equality and equal opportunities' and 'sustainable development'.

For ESF, the project applicants will be required to deliver their services in-line with the Public Sector Equality Duty (as defined in the Equality Act 2010). All projects must have a gender and equal opportunities policy and implementation plan which will be submitted at full application stage and in-line with Managing Authority guidance. Project applicants will also be required to answer a number of ESF-specific equality questions which will be set out in both the full application form and the related guidance.

For ESF, all projects will also be required to submit a sustainable development policy and implementation plan (in-line with guidance produced by the Managing Authority).

The ESF programme particularly welcomes projects that have an environmental focus that can meet the strategic fit at local and programme level whilst also adding value by:

- supporting environmental sustainability; and/ or
- complementing the environmental thematic objectives of other programmes such as ERDF; and/or
- using the environment as a resource to help motivate disadvantaged people

Further information is available in the ESF Operational Programme.

#### 4.5 State Aid & Revenue Generation

Applicants are required, in the Outline Application, to provide a view on how their proposal complies with State Aid law. Applicants must ensure that projects comply with the law on State Aid. Grant funding to any economic undertaking which is state aid can only be awarded if it is compatible aid, in that it complies with the terms of a notified scheme or is covered by the De Minimis Regulation. Guidance for grant recipients, explaining more about State Aid, is available; it is important that Applicants take responsibility for understanding the importance of the State Aid rules and securing their full compliance with them throughout the project, if it is selected into the Programme.

The Managing Authority is not able to give legal advice on State Aid. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the operation is State Aid compliant.

Where the Applicant does not perceive that there is any State Aid, it should state whether or not it considers Articles 61 and 65(8) of regulation 1303/2013 to apply. This revenue should be taken into account in calculating eligible expenditure. Article 61 refers to monitoring revenues generated after completion of the project, and Article 65(8) how to deal with differences in the forecast and actual revenues at the end of the operation. The details of this will be tested at the full application stage.

### 4.6 Funding Agreement

The Funding Agreement is a standard, non-negotiable and legally binding document. Any successful Applicant will be subject to the terms and conditions contained within this agreement. Applicants are strongly advised to seek their own advice to ensure that they would be able to enter into and abide by the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Failure to meet any of the conditions of the agreement or the commitments within the application will result in claw back of funding.

Applicants should be aware that additional provisions and securities may be included within the Funding Agreement to protect the investment. These will be further discussed if relevant following the Full Application stage.

#### 4.7 **Procurement**

All costs delivered by the Grant Recipient (the applicant) and/or delivery partners must be delivered on an actual cost basis. Other costs must be procured in line with EU regulations. The most common error identified during audit has been failure to comply with relevant procurement regulations and crucially to maintain a full audit trail to prove that they have complied with the relevant regulation. Robust and transparent procurement is required to ensure that Grant Recipients:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that: "Save as otherwise provided in the Treaties, any aid granted by a Member State or through state resources in any form whatsoever which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods shall, in so far as it affects trade between Member States, be incompatible with the internal market."

- consider value for money;
- maximise efficient use of public money; and
- maintain competitiveness and fairness across the European Union.

It is recommended that applicants seek their own legal advice pertaining to their procurement and requirements to publicise any tendering opportunities.

The Managing Authority is not able to give legal advice on procurement. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the project is compliant in this respect.

#### 4.8 Retrospection

There will be no retrospection for applications made against this call, other than in line with the general policy on retrospection which allows costs to be potentially eligible between outline and full application stage, but only where the full application is approved.

#### Application Process & Prioritisation Methodology 5.

There are two stages to the ESF application process; Outline Application and if successful, Full Application. Applicants must fully complete the Outline Application Form (section 9 refers). Guidance is available on the European Growth Funding website pages. Acceptance of an Outline Application to progress to full application stage does not in any way indicate or constitute an offer of European Social Fund grant. Applications will be subject to a Gateway Assessment undertaken by the Managing Authority under the following criteria:

- Applicant eligibility;
- Activity and expenditure eligibility; and
- The fit with the ESF OP and the call.

Proposals that pass the Gateway Assessment will move into the Core Assessment which consists of the following:

- Strategic fit;
- Value for money;
- Management & control;
- Deliverability;
- Procurement / tendering; and
- State Aid compliance.

The Managing Authority will seek advice from partners when considering applications to ensure its assessment is informed by local economic growth conditions and opportunities within the context of Operational Programmes and the local ESIF Strategy. This will include the relevant LEP Area ESIF Committee and other partners deemed relevant to the application.

The assessment and any prioritisation will be undertaken using only the information supplied as part of the application process. The Managing Authority cannot accept further detail outside this process.

**ESIF Call Template** 

Non-public sector Applicants who are successful at the Outline Application stage may be subject to due financial diligence checks by the Managing Authority, prior to submission of a Full Application. Applicants will be required to submit accounts, and to clarify financial or other organisational information. New Applicant organisations may be required to provide details of a guarantor.

There is no appeal process for applicants whose Applications are rejected at Outline Application stage, Full Application stage or for failing to satisfy the MA's Financial Due Diligence checks.

#### Support 6.

Please note that this is a competitive call and to preserve impartiality we are unable to enter into correspondence with applicants over their Outline application. Details of where guidance can be found are contained throughout this calls document. In exceptional circumstances, if there are issues with accessing this guidance, please contact:

#### 

No applications are to be sent to this email address. Completed Outline applications must be sent to the email address provided in Section 9 – Document submission.

# 7. Key Documents

- Outline Application Form;
- Outline Application Form Guidance;
- Local Enterprise Partnership area's ESIF strategy; and
- National ESF Eligibility Rules.

# 8. Document Checklist

The assessment will be undertaken on the basis of documentation received at the point of closure of the call. Applicants should provide the following documentation.

#### Outline Stage:

- fully completed Outline Application;
- financial tables (if the application is against more than one Category of Region, a financial table for each Category of Region);
- Outputs, Results and Indicators tables (if the application is against more than one Category of Region, a Outputs, Results and Indicators table for each Category of Region);
- Visual representation of the customer journey is required (this could be a flow chart); and

To enable the Managing Authority to complete the required Financial Due Diligence checks (if private or voluntary and community sector), applicant to provide

three years financial accounts

**ESIF Call Template** 

ESIF-Form-2-001, Version 13 Date: 09 July 2018

- Proof of existence Certificate of Incorporation, Charities Registration, VAT Registration Certificate or alternate form of incorporation documentation;
- Proof of trading Financial Accounts/Statements for the most recent two years of trading including, as a minimum, Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheets;
- Completed Financial Viability and Risk Assessment Applicant Template (for applications requesting annualised funding of greater than £1m)

Failure to provide the above documentation could result in the application being rejected.

# 9. Document Submission

Completed Outline Applications must be submitted to

## 10. Timescales

Launch of Call advertised on GOV.UK	09 July 2018
Deadline for submission of Outline Application	28 September 2018

Outline Application forms not received by the deadline will not be assessed. Outline Applications which are not fully completed will be excluded.

For this call applications will normally be required to **commence delivery/activity** within three months of the award of contract.

Any changes related to the deadline for the submission of the Outline Application form will be notified on the <u>European Growth Funding</u> website pages.

# 11. Appendix A - Common output indicators

#### Appendix A – extract from Annex 1 of the ESF regulation

Common output and result indicators for ESF investments

(1) Common output indicators for participants

"Participants" refers to persons benefiting directly from an ESF intervention who can be identified and asked for their characteristics, and for whom specific expenditure is

earmarked. Other persons shall not be classified as participants. **All data shall be broken down by gender.** 

The common output indicators for participants are:

unemployed, including long-term unemployed
long-term unemployed
inactive
Inactive, not in education or training
employed, including self-employed
below 25 years of age
above 54 years of age
above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long-term unemployed,
or inactive not in education or training
with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)
with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)
with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)
participants who live in jobless households
participants who live in jobless households with dependent children
participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children
ethnic minorities
Participants with disabilities
other disadvantaged
homeless or affected by housing exclusion
from rural areas

Common immediate result indicators for participants are:

inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving
participants in education/training upon leaving
participants gaining a qualification upon leaving
participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving
disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training,
gaining a qualification, in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving

Common longer-term result indicators for participants are:

participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving

disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving