



Department
for Work &
Pensions



European Union
European
Social Fund

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:	1.1: Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People 1.2 Sustainable Integration of Young People into the Labour Market
Call Reference:	Wheels to Work and Training in South East LEP - OC30S19P1335
LEP Area:	South East LEP
Call Opens:	04/04/2019
Call Closes:	27/06/2019
Document Submission:	Completed Full Applications must be submitted to ✉: 2014-2020.esfapplications@dwp.gov.uk

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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.

The Government has confirmed that it will guarantee funding for ESF projects signed before the UK's departure from the EU, even when these projects continue after the UK has left the EU.

Funding for projects will be honoured by the government, if they meet good value for money and are in line with domestic strategic priorities. Each government department will take responsibility for the allocation of money to projects in line with these conditions and the wider rules on public spending. The full detail of the announcement can be found at the following [website link](#).

European Structural and Investment Funds are managed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local 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 appraisal of each Full Application.

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, Investment Priority: 1.1 Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People 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 [ESF Operational Programme](#) 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 appraised as part of a single-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. It will support activities through:

Investment priority: 1.1 - Access to employment for job seekers and inactive people, including the long term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility

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.

1.1 Specific Objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
To improve the employability of long-term unemployed people, so that they can compete effectively in the labour market.	This specific objective is focused on those who are long-term unemployed and who are less likely to move back into work than people who have been unemployed for less time. The additional support from this investment priority will help long-term unemployed people to tackle their barriers to work and move into sustainable employment. The main result target focuses on moving participants into employment (including self-employment) on leaving. There will be a quantified result target set for this result indicator in each category of region.
To provide individuals from groups which face particular labour market disadvantage with additional support so that they can compete effectively in the labour market.	This objective is focused on those who are unemployed but have more than one major barrier to progressing into employment (including self-employment) and sustaining employment. This client group will be more challenging to help and will often require intensive ongoing support to address complex barriers, which will be reflected in the

	<p>targets. Support will be tailored to individual needs. Participants will include individuals who are over 50, lone parents, disabled or have health problems, from ethnic minorities or who lack basic skills. The main result targets focus on moving participants into employment or into education/training or getting them involved in active jobsearch. Output targets will ensure we are reaching appropriate numbers of participants from these groups.</p>
<p>To encourage inactive people to participate in the labour market and to improve their employability.</p>	<p>This objective is focused on individuals who are distant from the labour market and who need additional support to give them the skills and/or confidence to enable them to move towards employment (including self-employment). Participants will include individuals who are lone parents, disabled or who have health problems, are over 50 or who are from ethnic minorities. The priority will be on those who are receiving inactive benefits. The main result that will be achieved is that inactive participants will engage more in the labour market. A specific output target will ensure we are targeting inactive people, and we have result targets to measure movement into work and increases in activity.</p>
<p>1.2 Specific Objective</p>	<p>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</p>
<p>To support the rise in the participation age by providing additional traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>To engage marginalised 15-18 year olds and support them to re-engage with education or training</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>To support young lone parents to overcome the</p>	<p>The additional support from this investment priority will help young lone parents (in areas that do not</p>

barriers they face in participating in the labour market (including childcare).	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
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1.2 Local Development Need

Projects must deliver activity which directly contributes to the objectives of Priority Axis 1, Investment Priority 1.1 of the Operational Programme, and which meets the **local development need** expressed in the text and table below.

Local Priorities:

The South East LEP area covers Kent, Essex, East Sussex, Medway, Southend and Thurrock and has a population of 4.2 million set to grow to nearly 5 million by 2039. Growth across a range of sectors is forecast on a significant scale and many of these are already experiencing shortages. Priority sectors include construction, IT and digital, logistics, finance, education, health and care.

Skills levels across the South East LEP area are improving but failing to keep pace with national levels and other LEP areas. The South East LEP's 165,000 enterprises and public sector employ over 2 million people and it is essential that this workforce can access relevant and flexible training to enable the economy to grow and deliver the best outcomes for local communities.

SELEP has recently agreed a five year skills strategy, available at <https://www.southeastlep.com/our-strategy/skills/> accompanied by an evidence base and would expect bids to be consistent with the ambition and priority this sets out. This makes clear the SELEP aspiration for inclusive growth, creating opportunities for all.

As part of the skills strategy consultation and ongoing feedback across the LEP, access to transport to employment and training was identified as a major barrier. This is in terms of cost to the individual and appropriate transport within the geography. SELEP has a large number of rural areas where public transport can be limited and also lack of public transport connectivity and coverage within the area, for example travel across Essex may require trips into London and out again or several connecting buses / trains.

There are employment opportunities on a large scale across the LEP and the ESIF Strategy refresh in June 2015 identified that "there are a significant number of unfilled vacancies in the SELEP area." Effective transport to these is crucial to addressing this. Additionally, for many people seeking training or employment opportunities a

lack of awareness and understanding of travel options may be a barrier. Advice and support is therefore necessary.

SELEP's Skills Strategy highlighted some challenges within the area such as 178,400 workless households and 83,300 children in workless households. This is the highest number of any LEP outside London. It also outlined the diversity of the area, with rural, coastal, urban, wealthy and deprived populations including some of the most deprived nationally.

56,160 people are claiming out of work benefits in the South East LEP area and of these, over 11,000 are aged 16-24, with increases in numbers in recent years. 114,500 economically inactive people are described in the ONS Annual Population Survey as 'wanting a job'.

In order to deliver against the skills strategy and local economic plan ambitions for an inclusive economy, it is necessary to address barriers to work and training such as transport and the cost of transport.

Call Outline

This programme is primarily aimed at unemployed or inactive residents including those aged 15-24, who are unable to afford their own transport, who find that they do not have any way of travelling to/from employment or training opportunities and where there is no direct public transport link between their home and their employment/training destination.

Innovation in approach is welcomed but examples of the sorts of support sought are:

- Targeted, personalised and bespoke advice and support for unemployed and economically inactive participants in the South East LEP area
- Personalised travel planning and advice for each individual to provide improved access to each individual to give them improved access to training and employment opportunities. Travel training may also be included.
- Proposals may include eligible, practical transport solutions for individuals such as bicycle, electric bicycle and scooter hire / borrowing for up to 6 months (not purchased with ESF funding and to adhere to stringent asset regulations), basic training, safety equipment (i.e. helmet, jacket, gloves and lock) etc however please note a tangible link to the end result must be proved
- Support to purchase rail, bus tickets where this will address a barrier to a job or training
- 15-24 year olds with additional barriers to the labour market, such as ex-offenders (where programme support is not already available), care leavers and those with Special Educational Needs.
- Holistic travel solutions where travel is absolutely the final barrier to obtaining work

Applicants must ensure that proposals including any hire and lease of equipment or purchase of small items of equipment, including vehicles are compliant with the ESF National Eligibility Rules before submitting an application.

Applicants must ensure that activity does not duplicate or undermine regional skills provision (such as that delivered by Jobcentre Plus or on behalf of the LEP) or national policy, including policies on other grants and loans. There should also be a joined up approach and close working with other ESF programmes across the South East LEP, including a call for Wheels to Work and Training supporting all ages.

Applicants must ensure that proposals including any hire and lease of equipment or purchase of small items of equipment, including vehicles are compliant with the ESF National Eligibility Rules before submitting an application.

This programme is primarily aimed at unemployed or inactive residents who are unable to afford their own transport, who find that they do not have any way of travelling to/from employment or training opportunities and where there is no direct public transport link between their home and their employment/training destination. The scheme should be available to eligible individuals who meet the criteria for ESF Investment Priority 1.1 and 1.2 in the South East LEP Area.

Applicants must ensure that activity does not duplicate or undermine regional skills provision (such as that delivered by Jobcentre Plus or on behalf of the LEP) or national policy, including policies on other grants and loans. There should also be a joined up approach and close working with other ESF programmes across the South East LEP.

- Applications are encouraged from consortia or other similar types of partnership arrangements. 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”
- Details of the local ESIF Strategy can be found at:
https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/SELEP_ESIF_Refresh_March_2016_v11_CLLD_revised_FINAL.pdf

1.2 Scope of activity

This call invites Full Applications which support the delivery of Priority Axis 1, **Investment Priority: 1.1 Access to employment for jobseekers and inactive people** and **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 South East 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.

<p>Indicative Fund Allocation:</p>	<p>Indicatively, through this call the Managing Authority expects to allocate approximately £2,500,000 ESF</p> <p>IP 1.1 £1,500,000</p> <p>IP1.2 £1,000,000</p> <p>The Managing Authority reserves the right to decrease or increase the indicative allocation, or support more or fewer projects subject to the volume and quality of proposals received.</p>
<p>Minimum application level</p>	<p>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</p> <p>£375,000 for IP1.1 of ESF to any single project</p> <p>£250,000 for IP1.2 of ESF to any single project.</p> <p>Applications requesting an ESF amount below the ‘Minimum Application Level’ will be rejected.</p> <p>As the call spans two Investment Priorities, applicants will need to provide separate financial and indicator tables per Investment Priority.</p>
<p>Duration of project</p>	<p>Projects must be completed no later than 3 years and 6 months after the proposed project start date; however, the Managing Authority reserves the right to vary the maximum duration in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>All ESF Projects must be completed by 31st December 2023. Project costs cannot be incurred beyond this date</p> <p>NOTE: Delivery of activities and associated costs can be incurred up to and including 31st December 2023, with the full and final claim expected no later than February 2024</p>
<p>Geographical Scope</p>	<p>All interventions should be focused on activity and beneficiaries within the South East Local Enterprise Partnership area.</p>

Specific call requirements	This is a call for ESF activity.
Call Deadlines	For this specific call, applications will be appraised 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 offer ESF funding where a project complements other activity or provides niche activity to target groups within the ESF Operational Programme.
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. 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.
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.
Calls listing multiple activity	The applicant is required to list each activity they plan to deliver, supported by a clear breakdown of costs. Expected outputs and results per activity should be provided.

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 Priority	1.1 Access to employment for jobseekers and inactive people
Specific Objectives	To help those who are disadvantaged but still relatively close to the labour market to tackle their barriers to work, and enter and sustain employment.

Indicative Actions	<p>ESF will not support activities that duplicate or replace existing support within national programmes, but may be used to support additional activities or target groups, including provision co-designed with local partners.</p> <p>Examples of actions which may be supported for all unemployed and inactive people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing access to transport where this is a barrier to taking up a job.
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Results Table

ID	Result Indicator	Minimum Target value for this call
R1	Unemployed participants into employment (including self-employment) on leaving	22% More Developed
R2	Inactive participants into employment, or job search on leaving	33% More Developed
R3	Participants gaining basic skills	4% More Developed
R4	Participants with childcare needs receiving childcare support	36% More Developed
ESF-CR06	Participants in employment, including self-employment, 6 months after leaving	34% More Developed

Outputs table

ID	Output Indicator	Total minimum target value for this call	Men minimum target value	Women minimum target value
O1	Participants	4022	2212	1810
ESF –CO01	Unemployed, including long-term unemployed	2877	-	-
ESF – CO03	Inactive	1145	-	-
O4	Participants over 50 years of age	850	-	-
O5	Participants from ethnic minorities	684	-	-
ESF - CO16	Participants with disabilities	1020	-	-
O6	Participants without basic skills	700		
ESF - CO14	Participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	483	-	-

Investment Priority	1.2 Sustainable Integration Of Young People Into The 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 Actions	<p>ESF will not support activities that duplicate or replace existing support within national programmes, but may be used to support additional activities or target groups, including provision co-designed with local partners.</p> <p>Examples of actions for all young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET include:</p> <p>Providing access to transport to young people where this is a barrier to participating in the labour market and in learning activities including traineeships and apprenticeships.</p>

Results Table

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

Outputs table

ID	Output Indicator	Total Minimum target value for this call	Men minimum target value	Women minimum target value
O2	Participants (below 25 years of age) who are unemployed or inactive	1180	649	531
ESF –CO01	Unemployed, including long-term unemployed	850		-
ESF – CO03	Inactive	330	-	-
O5	Participants from ethnic minorities	60	-	-
ESF - CO16	Participants with disabilities	150	-	-

O6	Participants without basic skills	206		
ESF - CO14	Participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	75	-	-

Outputs and Results Rationale

Applicants must explain in detail in their Full Application how they have estimated each of the outputs and results for their project, demonstrating clearly how each of the proposed outputs and results directly link to their specific project activities and objectives.

Applicants must also explain their approach for forecasting each deliverable; including the specific base-lining/research they have undertaken to ensure their projected profiles are realistic and achievable and any assumptions they have made which impact on their forecasts.

Where an applicant is proposing one or more output or result figures below the expected minimum target value for this call, an explanation must also be provided by the applicant in their Full Application.

ESF Outputs and Results Indicator Definitions Guidance is available on GOV.UK [here](#).

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 South East 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 [European Growth Funding](#) website pages.

4.1 Compliance and Eligibility

When developing an application, Applicants should refer to [guidance](#) 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 'Document Checklist' section prior to submitting a Full 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 up to 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 full 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 Full 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.¹ 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

¹ 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."

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:

- 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.

For organisations applying for ESF funds through the Single-Stage Application process, the effective date for incurring eligible ESF expenditure will be the day after the relevant open call closing date. Any expenditure incurred by an ESF Direct Bid project prior to this date is ineligible.

However, any expenditure incurred by an ESF applicant, up to and including the date on which an ESF Funding Agreement is fully executed, will be at the applicant's own risk.

5. Application Process & Prioritisation Methodology

The ESF application process is a single-stage process – Full Application only. Applicants must fully complete the Full Application Form (section 9 refers). Guidance is available on the [European Growth Funding](#) website pages. 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 appraisal 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 appraisal 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.

Non-public sector Applicants may be subject to due financial diligence checks. 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.

If, following the appraisal process, an applicant is not satisfied with the ESF funding decision for their project, they can submit an appeal in writing to the ESF Managing Authority.

6. Support

Please note that this is a competitive call and to preserve impartiality we are unable to enter into correspondence with applicants over their Full Application prior to the call closing date. 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:

✉: esf.2014-2020@dwp.gov.uk

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

7. Key Documents

- Full Application Form
- Full Application Form Guidance

- Financial Annex
- Indicator Annex
- Local Enterprise Partnership area's ESIF strategy; and
- National ESF Eligibility Rules.

8. Document Checklist

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

1. Fully completed **Full Application Form** (Note that Sections 2.7 and 2.8 of the Full Application Form will not be applicable as this is a “one stage” application process);
2. **Financial tables** (if the application is against more than one Category of Region, a financial table for each Category of Region);
3. **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);
4. A **visual, high level customer journey** document e.g. flow chart;
5. **Confirmation of match funding** from each funder (confirmation must be in place by the point of formal approval);
6. **Detailed Granular budget breakdown** (All costs must be itemised, eligible, appropriate for the project and profiled across the project period. The granular budget should also include all hourly rate figures, per job role, for staff working part-time or part of their time on the ESF Project – calculated using the 1720 hour rate calculation set out in the [ESF Programme Guidance](#) on GOV.UK. This includes match-funded staff roles);
7. **Equality and Diversity Policy and Sustainability Policy** (Applicant is responsible for ensuring that Delivery partners also hold relevant policies);
8. **Independent state aid advice** (if applicable);
9. **Job Descriptions and Organogram** (covering all staff, including any delivery partner and/or match-funded staff posts);
10. **Applicants procurement policy** (if applicable);
11. **Draft SLA with Delivery Partners** (if applicable)
12. **Project level risk register** (this should cover areas such as financial risk, output risks, delivery risks etc. please ensure that the register covers how these risks will be managed and mitigated);
13. **Anti-Fraud Statement** (a statement on how you will deal with suspected fraud in your organisation and if appropriate, with your sub-contractors); 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
- 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 FVRA 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 Full Applications must be submitted to

✉: 2014-2020.esfapplications@dwp.gov.uk

10. Timescales

Launch of Call advertised on GOV.UK.	4 April 2019
Deadline for submission of Full Application	27 June 2019

Full Application forms not received by the deadline will not be appraised.

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 Full Application form will be notified on the [European Growth Funding](#) 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