



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Applying for the Pathways to Work Innovation Fund

Government funding to find new ideas
that support disabled people to work



Easy Read
Summary

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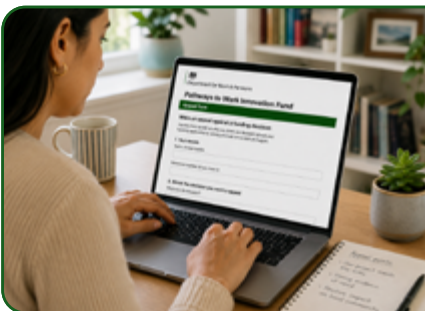
Please note: some images in this document have been created using AI and are marked with a star *

What's inside?





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How do organisations apply?

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Organisations will usually apply online.



There will be an **Application Portal** on the internet.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pathways-to-work-innovation-fund>



There will also be information on GOV.UK and DWP's Find a Grant service.

<https://www.find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/>



The application will ask organisations:



- The type of organisation they are



- The problem they want to put right



- Their new idea



- The group of people their idea will support



- What difference they think the project will make



- How they will manage the project



- How much money they will need for the project.



Organisations will also need to explain how they have worked with disabled people and people with long-term health conditions to create their idea.



They will also need to explain how their project will be **accessible**.



What happens when you apply?

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Organisations can apply from
Monday 28 September 2026.

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The last day to apply is
Monday 26 October 2026.



We will look at all the applications and make
a **shortlist**.



The **shortlist** will be a list of projects that
could get funding.



If an organisation is shortlisted they will hear by **Monday 9 November 2026**.



Shortlisted organisations can make their applications better at sessions between **16 and 27 November**.



Updated applications can be sent to us from **Friday 27 November** until **Friday 4 December 2026**.



Organisations will find out if they have been successful from **January 2027**.



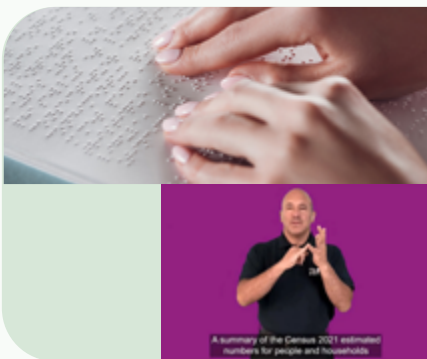
Successful projects can start getting ready from **February 2027**.



A project can only start **after** the **Grant Funding Agreement** has been signed.



Support to apply for the Innovation Fund



DWP wants to make it easy for everyone to apply for the **Innovation Fund**.



Organisations can get support if they have questions about the **Innovation Fund**.



There is an Easy Read document that gives answers to questions about the **Innovation Fund**.



There will also be weekly online drop-in sessions between **28 September** and **26 October** where you can:



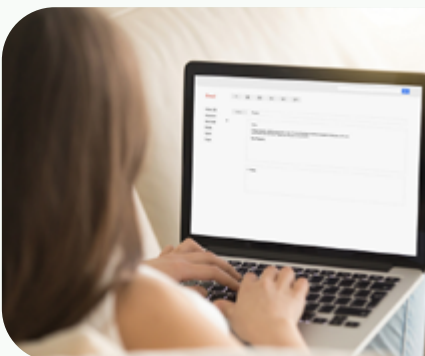
- Ask questions



- Find out more about applying



- Get support with your application.



You could also email:

dwp.pathwaystoworkinnovationfund@dwp.gov.uk



Working in partnership

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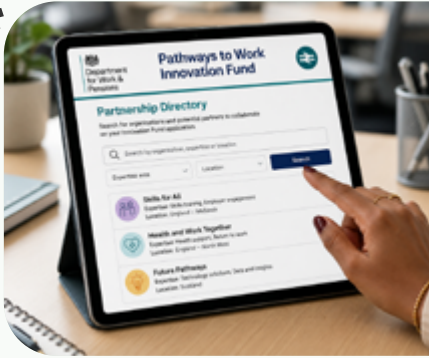
Organisations can apply for funding on their own.



They can also apply with other organisations or people, which is called a **partnership**.



We will have a **Partnership Directory** – a list of people and organisations.



The **Partnership Directory** can help you find people and organisations to work with that might have:



- Specialist knowledge



- Lived experience



- Local knowledge

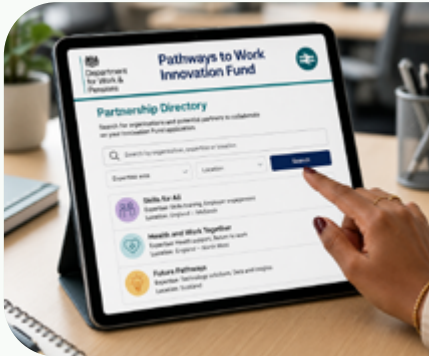


- Useful skills



- A new idea.

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Being in the **Partnership Directory** does not mean you have to make an application.



People and organisations can decide who they want to work with.



Accessibility support

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DWP wants the Innovation Fund application to be **accessible**.



People can tell DWP if they need support or a **reasonable adjustment**.



A **reasonable adjustment** is a change that supports a disabled person to take part.



Support could include information in:



- Easy Read

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- Large print



- Braille



- Audio



- British Sign Language or BSL

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- Accessible digital formats.



Information will also be available in **Welsh**.



You can request:

- BSL interpreters or subtitles at meetings.



- Face-to-face meetings at accessible venues.



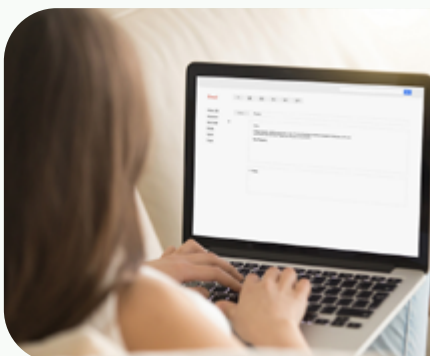
- Other support to meet your needs.



Please let us know as early as possible about your **accessibility needs**.



Then we can put the right support in place for you.



If you need any extra support please email:
dlp.pathwaystoworkinnovationfund@dlp.gov.uk



Or write to:

Pathways to Work Innovation Fund
Ernst & Young
1 More London Place
London SE1 2AF



Appealing against a decision

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Sometimes an organisation can make an **appeal** about a funding decision.



An **appeal** means asking for a decision to be looked at again because:



- The application was not checked in the right way



- Important information was not looked at



- The decision was made but the **facts** were **wrong**



- The application was not looked at fairly.

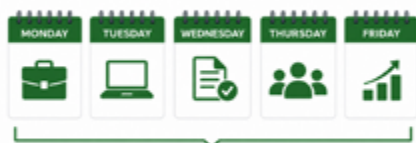
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An organisation **cannot appeal** just because it does not agree with the decision.

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5 Working Days

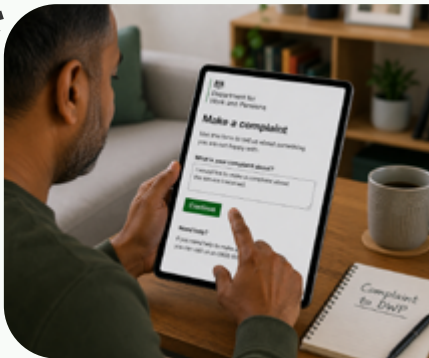


An appeal should be made **within five working days** of the decision.



Making a complaint

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An organisation can make a complaint if it is unhappy with the service it gets, for example:



- Poor customer service

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- Part or all of the application was not accessible



- Delays



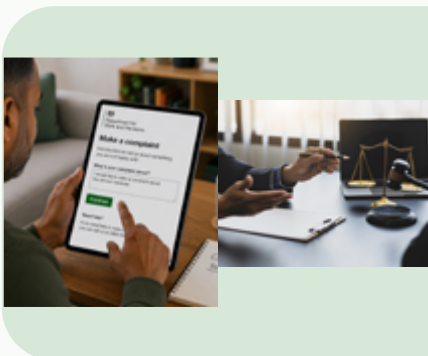
- A mistake with paperwork or information



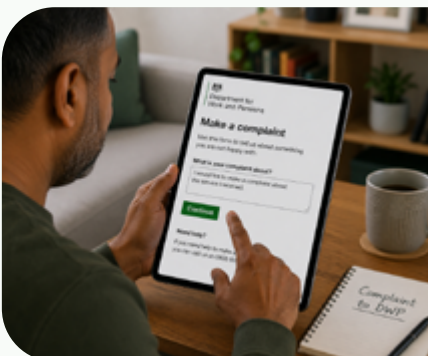
- A technical issue



- The rules **were not** followed.



A complaint **is not** the same as an appeal.



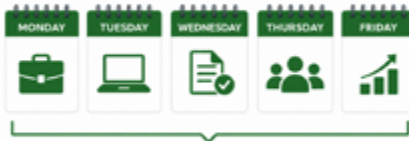
A **complaint** is about how the Innovation Fund has been managed.



An **appeal** is about a possible mistake or an unfair decision about funding.



5 Working Days



We will reply to complaints **within five working days** where possible.



Complaints can be sent to:

dwp.pathwaystoworkinnovationfund@dwp.gov.uk



The application form



There is an **online application form** for organisations that want to apply for funding. It asks organisations to explain:



- If they can manage public money and run the project well.



- A problem about work that they want to solve



- Their new idea



- What difference they think their idea will make.



- What they expect to learn from the project.



- Why the amount of money they asked for is good value.



- How they have worked closely with people with lived experience of disability or long-term health conditions.



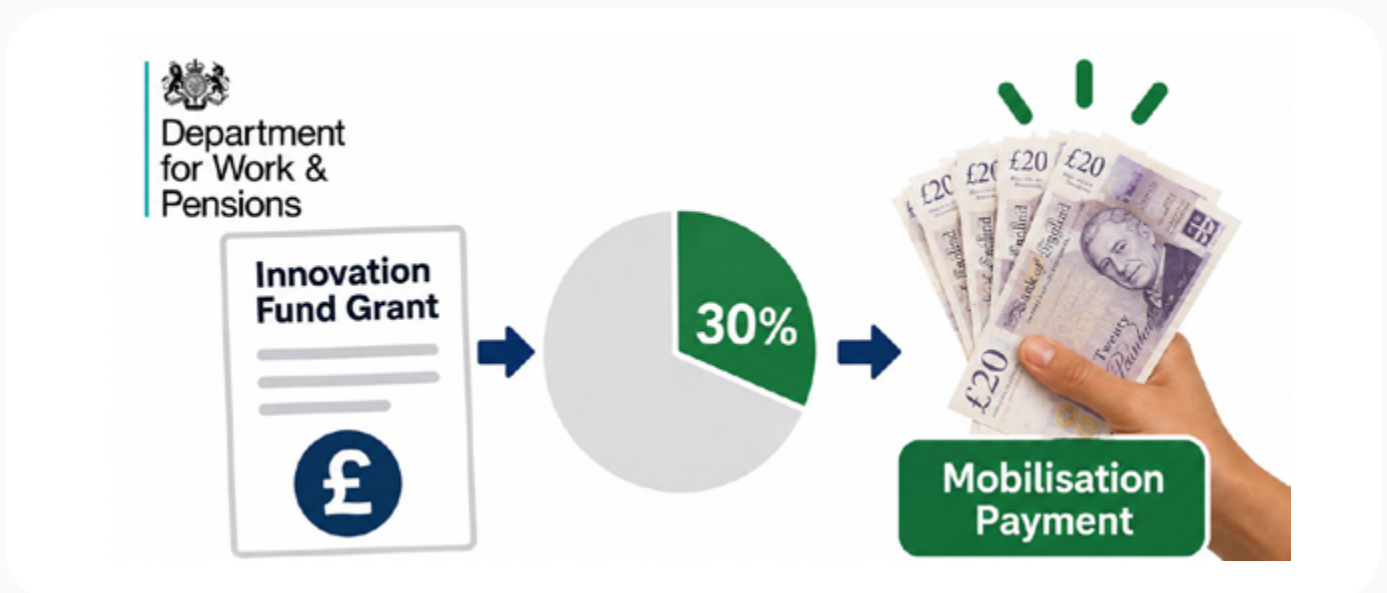
You can make an online application by using this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pathways-to-work-innovation-fund>



A payment to help start your project

An organisation could ask for **up to thirty per cent** of the funding to get started.



This is called a **Mobilisation Payment**.



This means the organisation gets **some of the funding early** so they can start the project.

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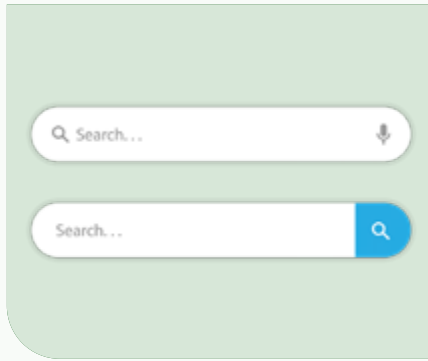


We will only agree to a **Mobilisation Payment** when an organisation really needs the money to start their project.

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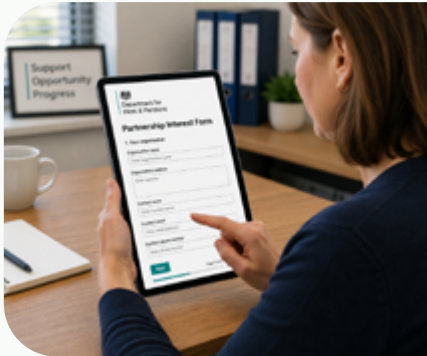


The organisation can ask for the money, but they might not get it.



Finding organisations or people to work with

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A **Partnership Interest Form** can be completed if a person or organisation wants to work with someone else when they apply. It asks about:



- The type of project they are interested in



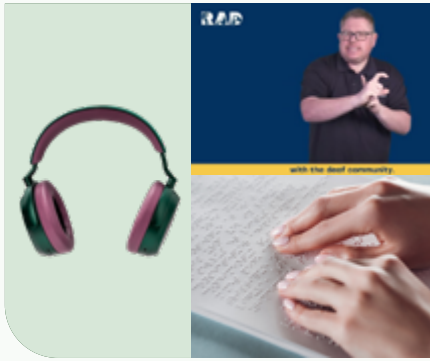
- Who they want the project to support



- Their skills and experience



- The type of partner they are looking for.



Your accessibility needs



Please let us know about any **accessibility support** you need, for example:



- Easy Read



- Braille



- British Sign Language



- Audio



- Large print



- Accessible digital information such as documents that can be read by screen readers.



- Welsh language information.



You can also ask for support to take part in meetings including:



- Support by phone or in person



- BSL interpretation



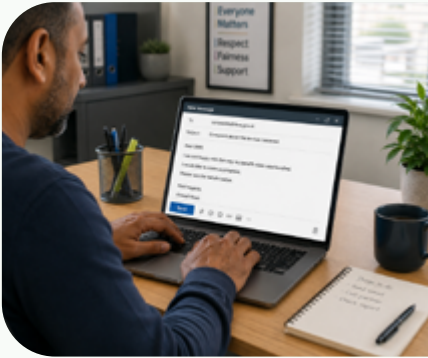
- Captions or subtitles



- A step-free and accessible venue.



Please let us know if you need anything else.



If you would rather talk about your accessibility needs before you apply you can email:

dwp.pathwaystoworkinnovationfund@dwp.gov.uk