

MAYOR OF LONDON

Skills for Londoners COVID-19 Response Fund

Prospectus

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**Greater London Authority
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Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA
www.london.gov.uk
enquiries 020 7983 4000
minicom 020 7983 4458
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Introduction

The Mayor of London is launching this fund to support London's Adult Education providers in responding to the learning needs of London's adult learners and communities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fund aims to ensure that Londoners can continue to access learning opportunities while classroom settings are closed. This will help them develop skills to access new employment opportunities, gain confidence in digital skills as we move to more online working and learning, and support the wider social and economic outcomes of participation in learning.

The Fund will do this by supporting providers to expand and enhance their online provision. It will also help to build capacity in London's adult education providers to deliver more online provision and ensure they are equipped to reach learners who are at risk of digital exclusion.

In particular, the fund aims to support providers to meet the training needs of the following key groups:

- Furloughed workers and the self-employed whose incomes fall below the London Living Wage as a result of COVID-19
- Those made redundant as a result of COVID-19
- Key workers requiring additional training to meet the changing demands of their roles
- Learners who are at risk of digital exclusion

What funding is available?

The Mayor is making up to £9m available at this stage. The Fund will use London's Adult Education Budget (AEB) to support two strands of activity.

Only those providers who have an existing AEB contract with the GLA or are eligible for an AEB Grant allocation beyond 2020-21 are eligible to apply to this funding.

Funds are also being made available for **AEB procured providers** in accordance with the AEB procured funding arrangements. The GLA has written separately to procured providers to explain the process for requesting an increase in their contract value.

Strand 1 – Expanding delivery

This strand will support additional provision to meet the immediate demand for learning and skills in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We would encourage partnership delivery between providers and subcontracting partners, for example those with expertise in the delivery of online provision, in order to respond to the critical skills required in the capital.

If you are an **AEB grant-funded provider**, you can apply for an additional grant allocation from a minimum of £100,000 and up to a maximum of £500,000. This funding is only available for delivery to meet demand above your current allocation. It will be a ringfenced amount to support responsive provision which cannot be supported through the existing planned curriculum. Additional provision can be an expansion of existing provision. Any additional funding approved under this Strand will be reconciled against actual earned delivery. We expect to support additional delivery to start between June and August 2020.

Where an application is made by a grant-funded provider with a subcontracting partner, we would expect any use of funding to pay management fees to be kept to a minimum level to ensure that funding is available to meet frontline demand for responsive provision.

Strand 1 - Application Process

If you wish to apply to this strand you need to complete the appropriate application form on the website and submit to aeb@london.gov.uk before the **deadline of 31 May 2020**.

AEB grant-funded providers are eligible to apply for additional funding, where an application meets the following criteria for support:

- A. Requirement for additional funding. Applications should provide evidence supported by the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) that AEB performance in 2019/20 will be above allocation (excluding Community Learning) and therefore the additional demand described in the application cannot be met from the current allocation.
- B. Response to demand. Applications should provide evidence to demonstrate the additional demand for provision from a priority group(s) and identify the learners, learning aim volumes and values that will be delivered within a specific timescale.
- C. Readiness to deliver. Applications should provide evidence that the provider and/or subcontracting partner has the capability and capacity to meet demand immediately with provision starting in 19/20. For example, where delivery is online, the provider should demonstrate that it has the available platform, content and support ready to deliver the learning aims required to meet demand.

Each application will be assessed against the above criteria as follows:

significant evidence that demonstrates the criterion is met	2
limited evidence to demonstrate the criterion is met	1
insufficient evidence to demonstrate the criterion is met	0

Where the value of applications exceeds the total amount of the fund, the applications will be selected for funding based on the ranking of aggregated scores. Where an application receives a score of 0 for any criterion, it will not be selected for funding. In respect of criterion C, the GLA will take into account any formal intervention in respect of quality or finance.

Additional funding provided through the Response Fund will be reconciled in the December of respective academic years. Funds will be recovered where the additional provision has not been delivered

Grant-funded providers will need to complete the application form and set out how they meet the minimum eligibility criteria.

This application will then be considered by the GLA and we will aim to inform you of a decision as soon as possible following the application deadline.

Strand 2 – Building capacity

Under this strand, the Mayor will provide **one-off grant allocations** to support the costs of building capacity in the London skills sector. This will enable providers to adapt their delivery of education and training to respond to the immediate and medium-term impact of COVID-19. We want to keep London learning over the coming months and into the period of recovery, and this means developing an agile and responsive skills sector in the capital to best support individuals, businesses and the local community.

Funding is available to support activity addressing the challenges of delivering learning at distance. We are particularly keen to support activity that:

- improves digital infrastructure;
- supports professional development of staff;
- develops curricula to meet the needs of learners at risk of disengaging from learning and the digitally excluded;
- repurposes learning to be delivered online; or
- other response needs that address challenges of delivering at distance which would not normally fall within the scope of a provider's funding allocation or contract and for which funds have not been made available to date.

Delivery of AEB provision is not fundable under this strand.

This strand is open to applications from **both AEB grant-funded and procured providers**.

Funding awarded under this strand cannot be used for any expenditure not directly related to the activity set out in your application.

Strand 2 - Application Process

All AEB providers are eligible to receive an “earmarked” allocation through the Fund, except for providers that the GLA will no longer fund from 2021/22 onwards. You can apply for an amount determined by your AEB allocation for 2020/21 as set out in the table below. Procured providers should use their annual delivery value, not their lifetime contract value, to determine their earmarked allocation

Allocation 2020/21	Earmarked allocation (£)
Above £10m	£100,000
£5m - £10m	£70,000
£4m - £5m	£50,000
£3m - £4m	£40,000
£2m - £3m	£30,000
£1m - £2m	£25,000
Below £1m	£20,000

You have the option to request an amount below your earmarked allocation if appropriate.

Your proposed project must build capacity to address the challenges of delivering learning at distance in line with the activities outlined in relation to Strand 2. We will consider whether your project is eligible based on your responses to the questions in the application form. This will form the basis of an overall Yes/No recommendation on whether to fund the project. Funding for this strand will not be awarded on a competitive basis, and as such applications will not be scored.

If you wish to apply to this strand you need to complete the application form and submit to aeb@london.gov.uk before the **deadline of 30 June 2020**. We will aim to inform you of a decision within two weeks of your application submission. Applications will not be considered after this deadline. If your application is declined, you may submit another application to this strand as long as it is before the deadline for applications. We encourage you to submit applications as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to submit a second application if needed.

Further guidance

You must complete the application form(s) carefully and upload all the required attachments – we cannot accept changes or additional information after your submission. If you have any questions about the process or application forms, please contact us at aeb@london.gov.uk.

The GLA is not bound to accept any proposal it receives and reserves the right to award funding as it deems necessary to support the needs of Londoners.

Any award of funding under:

- **Strand 1** will be subject to your entry into and execution of a variation agreement; and
- **Strand 2** will be subject to your entry into and execution of a funding agreement, copies of which you will be provided with should your application prove successful. You should not therefore, place reliance upon any such funding until a variation or funding agreement has been executed by both you and the GLA and dated. Acting in reliance of funding prior to this is entirely at your own risk and the GLA accepts no liability for your committal to or expenditure of sums in this regard.

Things we are not able to fund

The GLA is unable to cover costs for any staff who are not essential to your current operations, for example furloughed staff.

Where existing IT or staff support services would extend to the current situation without additional cost the GLA would expect you to meet these costs from existing budgets. Where new software or other services come with a support package included in the purchase cost the GLA would expect you to make use of this wherever possible.

The GLA will not be able to cover the costs of planned equipment upgrades or replacements that should already have been factored into your organisation's plans and budgets.

The GLA will not cover any costs that you would have in any case incurred through this period and would have budgeted for in your organisational plans (e.g. your existing rent or utilities costs). Funding is also not available to replace any lost income (e.g. from renting out space in your building) or for general cashflow or financial support purposes.

Other formats and languages

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Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Telephone **020 7983 4000**
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