

European Social Fund - ESF



<p>What is ESF?</p>	<p>The European Social Fund (ESF) provides financial support for training, work-force development and vocational activities for unemployed and employed people and seeks to promote lifelong learning, equal opportunities and social inclusion. ESF is funded in the North West region through the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective and will support projects taking place within the North West region, excluding Merseyside (as Merseyside has its own ESF allocation). There are two complimentary priorities from the ESF National Programme, each has a set of measures that detail the type of action that can be supported.</p>
<p>Priority 1</p>	<p>Priority 1 - Extending Employment Opportunities. This priority supports projects that tackle the barriers to work faced by unemployed and disadvantaged people.</p>
<p>Priority 2</p>	<p>Priority 2 - Developing a Skilled and Adaptable Workforce. This priority supports projects to train people who do not have basic skills and qualifications needed in the workplace.</p>

These two priorities contained in the national ESF Programme provide the structure for the North West ESF Plan. Its priorities are detailed below.

Priority 1 - Extending Employment Opportunities

- Improving employability and skills of unemployed and economically inactive people;
- Tackling barriers to work faced by disadvantaged groups: people with disabilities and those with health conditions; lone parents; older workers; BME communities; people with low skills; and those living in deprived communities;
- Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Priority 2 - Developing a Skilled and Adaptable Workforce

- Reducing the numbers of people without basic skills and level 2 qualifications and training to level 3 to address intermediate skills shortages;
- Provide higher level skills training in small enterprises (up to 50 workers) and training trainers to deliver ESF services.

<p>Community Grants</p>	<p>Within ESF there is a Community Grants Programme. These are small grants of up to £12,000 per annum to help Third Sector organisation to mobilise disadvantaged or excluded unemployed and inactive people to facilitate their progress towards employment. Third Sector organisations wishing to access Community Grants need to submit a short application form to the relevant grants co-ordinating body. If successful, these organisations will receive the grant without having to find any match funding as it is pre-matched. Contact North West Network for details of Community Grants intermediary bodies in the region. For further information please refer to the Community Grants information sheet.</p>
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<p>Who Can Apply for ESF?</p>	<p>Any organisation either public or private which is legally formed, except sole traders, can apply for ESF. To be eligible to apply applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a legally constituted organisation or group; (individuals cannot apply) • Provide a service to an eligible target group; • Contribute to the ESF Programme aims, objectives and strategy; • Demonstrate additionality of activity; and • Demonstrate value for money. 										
<p>What Will ESF Fund?</p>	<p>Almost all ESF monies available through the 2007-2013 programme will be spent through Co-Financing. Through Co-financing ESF will fund up to 100% of a projects cost. ESF will contribute to the actual running costs of a project which can include for example; staff salaries, external training costs; beneficiary costs (e.g. travel/subsistence); rent/lease of a building; hire/lease of equipment and consumables. Items of equipment costing no more than £1000 each are also eligible.</p>										
<p>Essential Documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England and Gibraltar European Social Fund Convergence, Competitiveness and Employment Programme 2007-2013 • ESF Regional Framework for the North West of England 2007-2013 • North West LSC Co-financing Plan 2007 - 2010 • DWP/JCP ESF Co-financing Plan North West region • North West Statement of Skills Priorities 2007-10 • ESF guidance notes • Local labour market research • Co-financing application pack <p>All of the above ESF documentation can be downloaded from the North West Network website www.nwnetwork.org.uk</p>										
<p>Further Information</p>	<p>If you would like further information on ESF or if you require assistance in developing a potential project idea, please contact the European Team at:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>North West Network</td> <td>Tel: 0161 236 6493</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Floor, Albert House</td> <td>Fax: 0161 228 6137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 Bloom Street</td> <td>E-Mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manchester,</td> <td>Website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M1 3HZ</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	North West Network	Tel: 0161 236 6493	2nd Floor, Albert House	Fax: 0161 228 6137	17 Bloom Street	E-Mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk	Manchester,	Website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk	M1 3HZ	
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