

OVERVIEW: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING UPDATE

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For employers, accessing WDF significantly contributes towards the costs of workers' completing units and qualifications on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).

It can also be used to help fund the delivery of intermediate and advanced level Apprenticeships in social care.

The fund is distributed by Skills for Care via a network of employer-led partnerships and large national organisations (contract holders). It can only be utilised by adult social care providers that employ social care staff within England.

Funding Streams

Separate funding streams are also available to:

- fund projects that are innovative in their approach to influencing workforce development in the longer term. It has a similar focus to WDF - on supporting ongoing professional development of staff through vocational qualifications by increasing skills and competence. This is distributed via an annual tendering exercise
- people who employ personal assistants (Individual Employers) can apply for a grant directly from Skills for Care to support the full cost of learning and development for both themselves and their personal assistants.
- user-led organisations who can apply for grant funding to deliver the learning and development required by people who employ their own care and support staff (individual employers).

Key Dates

The 2013/14 WDF funding year runs from 1st January 2013 to 31st March 2014.

Funding for Individual employers streams applies to training that has started and paid for by 31st March 2014.

Funding for user-led organisations requires that training must be completed by 31st October 2013.

Innovation Fund applications for 2013/14 have now closed.

Useful Links

Full details of Workforce Development Fund can be found at <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/funding/funding.aspx>

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