IEE Employer Fund: Start Up Fund

Specification, September/October 2022

In response to the challenges affecting many businesses and employers, Capital City Partnership (CCP), as the Integrated Employer Engagement (IEE) lead across the Edinburgh and South East Scotland (ESES) City Region Deal, has again developed a small grants programme to support *micro businesses across the 6 local authority areas (Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders, West Lothian). This is to ensure that jobs are either retained or created with the monies granted.

*micro businesses – less than 10 employees or annual turnover less than £632,000

This year our focus is linked to businesses:

a) whose aims are to transform the world for the better by aspiring to build a fairer society and a more inclusive economy. They reinvest or donate any profit they make into creating positive social change within their organisation or local communities in a more ethical and sustainable way.

b) who may have initiated their company out of necessity, rather than through choice, as a result of the after-effects of the pandemic. Given that the DWP's New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) closed to new participants on 1 January 2022, we believe that our provision, could be an alternative monetary option for financial help.

We are principally looking to support micro businesses through these potentially unfamiliar, uncertain and challenging times as life, work and trading returns to greater normality, following Covid-19 and adjustments.

Following engagement and feedback from the Regional Business Gateway Teams, 2 areas emerged that would particularly benefit from additional funding namely:

1) Social Enterprise/Community Interest Companies (CiCs)
2) Start Up Businesses (similar to last year)

This document is for **Start Up Businesses.**

1. Invite for Applications

Applications are invited from Start-Up businesses for those individuals aged 18 years and over who have been established over the last 18 months and who have not received funds from IEE over the past 12 months. They may have initiated their company out of necessity, rather than through choice, as a result of the after-effects of the pandemic. In addition, given that the DWP's New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) closed to new participants on 1 January 2022, this provision could be an alternative monetary option for financial help.

Each company can only make one application to the fund.

Applications should be emailed to IEEemployerfund@capitalcitypartnership.org

The deadline is 5pm, Friday 16th September 2022.

Late submissions will not be accepted. If the fund is not fully allocated, it may be reopened, subject to uptake.

2. Focus of Grant Programme

It has been brought to our attention that Start-Up businesses, who may or may not be sole-traders, have been established as an indirect result of the pandemic and/or other funding avenues closing. Examples of this could be

redundancies that may have arisen and the DWP NEA ceasing as from 1 January 2022.

Financial assistance could therefore be used for the following (but not limited to):

- capital expenditure
- stock items
- tools/equipment
- website design
- consultancy

Whilst investing in the above, these should simultaneously support: the maintenance of employment contracts; prevention of job losses; the growth of staff; the creation of new posts; developing trading ability; and/or building upon an already clear business plan.

The minimum award for each application is £500 and the maximum award for each application will be £1,000, to be spent and evidenced within six weeks of award. The total available fund is **£50,000**.

3. Funding Allocation Split & Impact

Local Authority Area	Allocation	Minimum number of businesses to be supported
Edinburgh	**£13,000**	**13**
Fife	**£10,000**	**10**
West Lothian	**£9,000**	**9**
Scottish Borders	**£6,000**	**6**
East Lothian	**£6,000**	**6**
Midlothian	**£6,000**	**6**
Total	**£50,000**	**50**

4. Additional information

For more information on eligibility criteria and administration of the fund, please consult our Eligibility and FAQ document.