

Learning and Skills Council Funding for Literacy, Language & Numeracy

Improving adult literacy, language and numeracy (LLN) skills is a key priority for the Government. This is reflected in the funding available to support the development and delivery of programmes.

Who provides the funding?

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is the main provider of funding and manages a range of funding streams designed to expand LLN provision and widen participation. Note: the LSC's funding guidance document employs the term "Basic Skills" when referring to literacy, language and numeracy provision.

What are the funding streams?

The funding streams reflect the different activities involved in developing and delivering literacy, language and numeracy programmes. Some organisations will be involved in signposting learners whilst others will deliver a comprehensive learning programme.

- **Mainstream LSC funding** is available to approved providers who deliver a full learning programme.
- **LSC discretionary funding** is available for organisations to bid for. Discretionary funds reflect the priorities and needs of local Learning and Skills Councils and are often awarded to organisations involved in learner engagement and signposting activity.
- **Local Intervention and Development Fund** is available from local LSC's to support local voluntary and community sector organisations to develop their capacity to deliver learning opportunities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- **Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities** is available from local LSC's for organisations which deliver learning or work in partnership with learning providers. The funding is designed to promote the active participation of local residents in the planning and management of learning programmes.
- **Family literacy, language and numeracy funding** is available to improve the literacy, language and numeracy skills of parents/carers; to improve the ability of parents/carers to help their children; and to help children acquire literacy, language and numeracy skills.

What activities does the funding pay for?

The following provision will attract mainstream LSC basic skills funding:

- Learning aims leading to approved literacy, language (ESOL) and numeracy qualifications at Entry Level and Levels 1 and 2.
- Key skills qualifications in application of number and communication at Levels 1 and 2 for learners aged 19 or more, and for those learners aged 16-18 who are following a part-time programme.
- Learning aims based on the national standards for adult literacy, language and numeracy where these support learners in their progress towards nationally approved qualifications.

How much funding is available?

Approved literacy, language and numeracy (basic skills) provision attracts extra funding in the form of “weighting” and “uplift” to reflect the additional needs of learners. At present this includes a programme weighting factor of at least 1.4 and a disadvantage uplift of 12%. Full details of funding including rates for 2004-5 are available from the LSC website: www.lsc.gov.uk.

How do I apply for LSC funding?

Local Learning and Skills Council websites provide information relating to:

- How to become an approved provider
- Local Priorities and achievement targets
- Guidance on bidding procedures

Local Learning and Skills Council websites and addresses can be found on the national LSC website at: www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Corporate/AbouttheLSC/ContactInfo/MapLLSC-ContactDetails.htm

NIACE contacts

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References and useful resources

www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus/planning_and_funding

This features a table which links to 41 UK and European funding sources which fund basic skills provision, and defines eligibility by provider type. It also provides a table which links activity such as delivery of basic skills provision to funding. This page also provides info on LSC funding guidance.

www.funderfinder.org.uk

Funderfinder is a useful source of information about charitable trusts

Funding neighbourhood learning – a guide for small voluntary and community groups. Lynne Bryan and Cheryl Turner. NIACE, 2004. ISBN 1862011966. £9.95. Offers step-by-step advice on planning and writing funding applications as well as preparing longer-term approaches to fundraising.

www.governmentfunding.org.uk

Gives a complete rundown of all grants available from government departments to the voluntary and community sector. Organisations can apply online for grants and if they register they can receive regular updates on grants.

www.niace.org.uk/information/guides/default.htm

Gives information on NIACE and external funding sources with links to websites.

This is the sixty fifth in a series of briefing sheets, which aim to provide an introduction to a variety of lifelong learning issues. Other titles in the series which may be of interest include:

- 64. Embedding literacy, language and numeracy
- 59. Skills for Life teaching qualifications framework
- 58. What is Dyslexia?
- 55. How do I become a teacher of adults?
- 44. Basic skills

Requests for briefing sheets in other formats, such as large print are welcomed, we will be pleased to consider your request. Copies of this and other sheets are available from NIACE

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They are also available on the website at: www.niace.org.uk/information

NIACE, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, has a broad remit to promote lifelong learning opportunities for adults. NIACE works to develop increased participation in education and training. It aims to do this for those who do not have easy access because of barriers of class, gender, age, race, language and culture, learning difficulties, or insufficient resources. Registered charity number 1002775; Company registration number 2603322.