

September 2011

## Overview

As we move into the Autumn, the summer ESF deadlines for the DWP Families Programme and SFA NEET rounds fade into the background. Successful tenders will lead to final arrangements before new project activity gets underway before the end of the year. Whilst most of the sub-contracting for the eventual winners has been completed, voluntary and community sector providers are well advised to keep an eye out for any last-minute opportunities to fill gaps.

For the smaller providers in selected boroughs, the wait continues for the launch of the London Community Grants Programme, which is imminent.

## CFO News

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## Department for Work & Pensions

Provision under the Work Programme, incorporating ESF funds dedicated to supporting those on Income Support and Incapacity Benefit, finally got underway in June & July. Management information is not expected to become generally available for some time.

The Preferred Work Programme Delivery Partners in the two London Contract Package Areas are:

**West London** – Ingeus Deloitte, Maximus UK, Reed in Partnership

**East London** - A4E, Careers Development Group, Seetec

Meanwhile, following the tendering deadline on 30th August, single tenders for the ESF DWP Programme for “Families with Multiple Problems” will be awarded, for each of the London CPAs, in October for starts in December.

## The 'New' Skills Funding Agency

The Skills Funding Agency has recently gone through a reorganisation under their [new ways of working](#). This has allowed them to become a significantly smaller organisation and this will permit major savings so more money can go into teaching and learning. They will operate from half the number of locations than previously, but state that their focus will be on understanding local conditions and building local relationships so they can facilitate, rather than micro-manage and supervise. Their goal is simply to make sure that a funding system designed to operate itself does just that.

They have two new Relationship Directors for London:

Jill Lowery, Director Area Relationship Team – London (LN&E). Jill can be contacted on [Jill.lowery@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:Jill.lowery@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) or 020 7904 0700 Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Camden, City of London, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Havering, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest and Westminster.

Clare Arnold is the local Relationship Director for London (LS&W). Clare can be contacted on [Clare.arnold@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:Clare.arnold@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) or 020 7904 0781 and will cover Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Richmond, Southwark, Sutton and Wandsworth.

### **Registering on ACTOR**

The Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR) is the Skills Funding Agency's on-line e-tendering application for the procurement of education and vocational training services. ACTOR replaces the Qualified Provider Framework (QPF) and is intended to be a single and simplified approach to the procurement of all education and training

To be registered on ACTOR, organisations must have passed a due diligence Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) and have submitted *at least one* ACTOR on-line Invitation to Tender (ITT) for all of the programmes/areas for which they want to obtain a contract/funding for 2011/12.

ACTOR is a register of colleges and training organisations that are eligible to be considered for funding from the Agency to deliver education and vocational training. (Please note though, being registered on ACTOR does not guarantee that an organisation will receive Agency funding.)

All organisations must be registered on ACTOR in order to be considered for funding. Once on the register, organisations may be considered in the procurement exercises that the Agency carries out, without having to submit additional lengthy, onerous bids. The Agency can do this because the information required is already recorded in ACTOR.

This enables a more streamlined approach, so that the procurement process is simpler and reduces the need for organisations to respond to multiple individual tenders. This change represents an improvement for the sector in terms of simplicity and reduced bureaucracy. At the same time it will ensure that the Agency is able to carry out its functions of funding and regulating the sector more efficiently and effectively

ACTOR is available for organisations to complete at any time other than for short periods at pre-notified intervals when access to ACTOR is withdrawn (frozen) to allow responses that have been submitted since the last freeze to be collected for evaluation.

The first freeze of ACTOR data was at 17:00 on 14 January 2011. Access to ACTOR on the e-Tendering Portal was restored on 1 February 2011.

Following the July freeze date, ACTOR will be frozen and users will be unable to make PQQ or ITT submissions until early September 2011. This will enable the Agency to assess the first year of ACTOR and review questions and associated communication processes. Users will, however, be able to view their most recent PQQ and ITT submissions.

To register on ACTOR please follow the link below and follow the instructions given:

<https://skillsfundingagency.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>

### **London Development Agency**

The 16 remaining Projects under ESF are now entering their final phases with evaluation schemes designed to pick up the lessons learnt.

As described in an earlier Bytesize, the European Programmes Management Unit, responsible for the London ESF & ERDF Programmes, moved from the LDA to the GLA over the summer. The Unit's new WebPages can be found at <http://www.london.gov.uk/esf>

### **London Councils**

An ESF Boroughs funding round is expected soon. We shall be covering the launch in a future edition.

### **London Councils – Community Grants**

We are still expecting that a new ESF Community Grants funding round will commence in the coming weeks which will offer grants of up to £12,500 to small voluntary and community sector groups designing projects to move the economically inactive closer to the labour market. The round will run in the boroughs of Croydon, Enfield, Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets with different criteria applying in each area – we will keep you posted as soon as we have confirmation of the details of the programme and the schedule of advice-giving support that will accompany it.

## National Offender Management Service

At present, no further tendering rounds are planned. The Prime Contractor in London is Working Links.

## Europe 2020 – Delivering smart urban growth: Open Day

23 September 2011: 10.00 - 13.00

GLA and London Councils European Service are hosting an open day on delivering Smart Urban Growth in London.

The Mayor and London Councils want to make London the best big city in the world. This means maintaining and improving London's productivity and economic competitiveness, while achieving sustainability and low-carbon goals via the Europe 2020 strategy - the European Commission's growth strategy for the coming decade. One of the key methods in achieving this growth are London's European Structural Fund programmes, made up of the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund.

If you are in a strategic decision-making position or are a policy-maker, you are invited to join the day for presentations on the Europe 2020 Strategy, the view from the UK, opportunities and challenges in London and how change can be delivered on the ground. This event is not aimed at those who are seeking immediate funding for their own organisations.

Speakers include:

European Commission representative

Dr Sue Baxter - Deputy Director, EU Programmes, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills

Mark Kleinman - Assistant Director Economic and Business Policy, Chair of the London ESF and ERDF Committees

Cllr Chris Roberts, Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure and Economic Development, London Councils

Peter Berkowitz – Head of Unit, Directorate General Regional Policy, European Commission

Wendy Violentano – Head of ESF Division, Department of Work and Pensions

Tony Travers - Director, LSE London

Register for the open day event now by completing this online form:

<http://www.londoncouncils.glegroup.co.uk/eventform.php?id=208>

## ERDF fifth bidding round now open

The fifth bidding round under the London ERDF Operational Programme has now launched. It aims to select projects that will help businesses in London to innovate, be more eco-efficient, access finance and new markets.

<http://www.london.gov.uk/erdf/applying-funding>

£20 million is available for projects under Priorities 1 and 2 of the London ERDF Operational Programme. ERDF will fund up to 50% of the project costs. Applicants must request a minimum of £500,000 ERDF for this bidding round. Only revenue funded projects are eligible.

To be considered for funding, applicants must clearly demonstrate that their proposed activities meet the criteria set out in the Round 5 Prospectus and that their proposals are in line with the aims and objectives of ERDF Priorities 1 and 2:

*Priority 1 - Business innovation & research, and promoting eco-efficiency*

Theme 1 – Develop a culture of, and capacity for, creating and using innovation throughout London's businesses to create sustainable economic growth

Theme 2 - Leverage value from London's world class knowledge base to benefit London's economy

*Priority 2 – Access to new markets and access to finance*

Theme 1 – Enabling access to appropriate investment finance to support innovation and growth; and

Theme 2 - Improving SMEs' access to new market opportunities.

### Who can apply for funding?

Any organisation that is legally constituted can develop proposals and apply for funding. Examples include:

- local authorities
- statutory or non-statutory public funded bodies
- voluntary/community organisations
- some private sector organisations (subject to eligibility rules and state aid compliance).

Please note: ERDF is not paid directly to profit-making private sector organisations. It is deemed that public funding (ERDF) is not required as the organisation can be supported by its profit. Private companies limited by guarantee are eligible. Private organisations limited by shares are not eligible but can act as strategic partners or match-funders to a project.

### Is my project eligible?

Applicants must refer to the Round 5 Prospectus and to the London Operational Programme before completing an application. The Round 5 Prospectus sets out what type of activity is eligible for support. Given the high level of interest in the fund, and that this is a competitive bidding process, not all applications will be selected for funding.

The closing date for the submission of the project outline application forms is 12 noon on 21 October 2011.

### **Workshop**

A workshop for potential applicants will be held at the Greater London Authority on 20 September 2011 (14.00 - 16.00) to exchange ideas and facilitate partnership building. Please contact EPMU at [erdf@london.gov.uk](mailto:erdf@london.gov.uk) to request a place by 15 September 2011.

More information including all the application literature can be accessed at <http://www.london.gov.uk/erdf/applying-funding>

### **2011-2013 ESF Publicity Works toolkit for ESF providers and their sub-contractors**

A new 2011-2013 ESF Publicity Works toolkit for providers and their sub-contractors is now available from this website: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/esf/resources/publicity/>

The toolkit is essential reading for any organisation in receipt of ESF funds. It:

- provides clear guidance, practical examples and supporting resources that can enhance a wide range of ESF publicity efforts
- helps providers and sub-contractors take the necessary actions to ensure European Union (EU) regulatory and CFO contractual publicity requirements are met.

An important focus is on helping organisations to use the ESF logo correctly, display ESF project plaques and inform participants of support from ESF and the EU.

There is evidence from an independent evaluation of ESF publicity activity and from monitoring activity by CFOs and the ESF Managing Authority that a small number of ESF and match funding recipients are not fully complying with these core requirements-which potentially places their funding at risk of being withdrawn.

Broader measures are also covered that focus on promoting the ESF project to wider audiences. These include guidance, materials and practical examples on:

- engaging the media, including the use of some core ESF messages
- producing news stories, press releases and case studies
- using consent forms and social media such as Facebook and Twitter
- other resources available to help publicise projects to wider audiences.

**All existing ESF funding recipients including providers and sub-contractors are encouraged to read the toolkit now.**

The toolkit will be updated on an ongoing basis to ensure that examples of effective publicity practices can be shared across the programme.

If you have details of any innovative and successful publicity measures that could potentially go on the toolkit please email DWP at [ESF.Feedback@jiu.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ESF.Feedback@jiu.gsi.gov.uk).

### **WorldSkills London 2011 – free skills competition event**

*5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> October, ExCel*

WorldSkills London 2011 is the largest international skills Competition the world has ever seen. 150,000 expected visitors will see 1,000 Competitors from more than 50 countries/regions competing in 46 skill areas over four exciting days of Competition.

Visitors can have a go at dozens of skills ranging from electronics to plumbing, web design and fashion to cabinet making. And with top employers to visit at the exhibition and specialist careers advice right on hand, this is your opportunity to get inspired and learn about the world of skilled professions.

WorldSkills London 2011 will be held over four days at the ExCeL London exhibition and conference centre in London's docklands from 5th-8th October 2011.

Find out more, including how to book tickets, at <http://www.worldskillslondon2011.com/events-programme/>  
Tickets for the event are free of charge, but you will need to register in advance in order to confirm your attendance – if you turn up without having registered, you will be charged.

### **Well London and Health updates**

Do you know about the Well London programme? Well London is a 3-year project, building stronger local communities by getting people working together to improve their neighbourhoods and their health and well-being. There's a wide variety of projects themed around mental well-being, physical activity, healthy eating, open spaces, and culture and creativity. In addition there are a range of initiatives that are building confidence and practical skills through volunteering and project delivery. This has led to some people moving on into paid employment - in some cases for the first time. Evaluation shows Well London is making a big difference to the way people feel about themselves, their community and their local neighbourhood as well as giving people the chance to get together and have fun. Visit their website at <http://www.london.gov.uk/welllondon/> where you can also sign up to their newsletter.

For more information on Health and how it relates to ESF, keep your eye out for some dedicated bulletins over the next couple of months which we will be sending through.  
You might also be interested in signing up for LVSC's specialised monthly e-bulletin which features updates about key issues and policy developments from the Department of Health: <http://www.lvsc.org.uk/e-bulletin-sign-up-page.aspx>

## London ESF & ERDF Awards 2011 – 2 weeks left to get nominations in

As notified in the August Bytesize, the application process for the third annual London European Social Fund (ESF) Awards has now been launched and for the first time, includes awards for the European Regional Development Fund programme (ERDF): <http://www.london.gov.uk/epmu/london-erdf-esf-awards-2011>. The Awards will showcase the talents, skills and employment-related achievements of individuals and businesses benefiting from ESF and ERDF across London.

*The 5 ESF award categories are:*

Young Learner / Participant of the Year (14-19 years)  
Adult Learner/ Participant of the Year (20+ years)  
Outstanding Achiever of the Year  
Progression onto an Apprenticeship  
Outstanding Mentor / Tutor /Employment Advisor of the Year

*The 2 ERDF award categories are:*

ERDF Project of the Year  
Most Improved Business of the Year

**Nominations are open now and will close on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.** Any participant or organisation that has been supported under the 2007-13 ESF and ERDF Programmes is eligible to submit a nomination entry and all the paperwork can be found at <http://www.london.gov.uk/epmu/london-erdf-esf-awards-2011>

The Awards ceremony will take place at City Hall in November 2011 and places will be prioritised for nominees and their guests.

The London ESF & ERDF Awards 2011 is a joint initiative between the European Programmes Management Unit who manage the ESF and ERDF programmes in London, the Greater London Authority and the five London 'co-financing' organisations that fund ESF projects: the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Skills Funding Agency, London Councils, the London Development Agency (LDA) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

The Awards are supported by ESF Works ([www.esf-works.com](http://www.esf-works.com)).

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