

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project reference	Project 2 of 2 - Overcoming barriers to work
LEP area	Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£1,447,800
Project start period	March 2016 to August 2016
Latest date for completion	December 2019
Date open for applications	Friday 5 June 2015
Deadline for stage one applications	12 noon on Monday 3 August 2015

Important information about this project outline

This project outline represents just one strand of the overall funding that is available through Building Better Opportunities. As this is a joint programme with the European Social Fund, we will only consider applications that clearly meet a project outline and meet the requirements set out in our **programme guide**.

As you read this project outline, please note the following:

- This project outline is subject to any changes made to the ESF Operational Programme in England when it is officially adopted by the European Commission. The Fund will upload any updates to <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf>. It is your responsibility to review the page regularly to keep abreast of any changes that may impact on your application.
- You must apply for the full amount of **funding available** shown, which we will award to just one applicant or partnership to deliver the project described in this outline.
- The project must be delivered in the **LEP area(s)** shown and within any specific **project location** we've identified within this outline.
- You must plan to **start** and **complete** your project by the dates indicated. By 'complete' we mean that you must have spent and claimed all of the grant and closed your project.
- Your proposed project must align with the **project description** we've provided within this outline and include any specific activities listed.
- You must submit your stage one application by the **deadline** we've given above.
- Your proposed project should include appropriate links to potential employers and self-employment opportunities. The specific interventions must enable a comprehensive assessment of an individual's needs that are tailored to help them move towards work and out of poverty.
- You must demonstrate that the activities you are proposing will be additional to any national and statutory provision. This could include for example: wrap around support that works with people to overcome the barriers that prevent them engaging effectively with statutory provision, or more in-depth and intensive support to the most disadvantaged people, which they can access alongside the statutory provision they are entitled to.
- Activities must be locally accessible and be led by skilled front line staff.
- The people who will benefit from the project must come from the eligible participant groups we've identified in our programme guide, with a specific focus on those unemployed or economically inactive, furthest from the labour market, and most at risk of social exclusion. We may also specify particular **project participants** within this outline that must benefit from some or all of the activities you'll deliver.
- You must be confident that you'll be able to deliver the **project outputs and results**, taking into account the value, length and nature of the project we've described. We will monitor the delivery of the project to ensure these outputs and results will be met over its lifetime.
- You should have experience of delivering similar services and of identifying and working with people who face significant challenges in engaging with the labour market. You must demonstrate an understanding of the needs of local people, and show how you will work with existing local providers of related services and engage those most in need in the local area.
- Organisations can be involved in more than one application, either as a lead or a partner. However, lead partners might set their own requirements on partners' involvement in other applications so please check local requirements with the lead partner.
- Subject to satisfactory performance, there may be the potential to extend the project duration and/or increase the funding available for this project once activities have commenced.

If you think your organisation, or a partnership led by your organisation, would be able to deliver the project we've described then you can request a stage one application form on our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf.

Project background

Within Northamptonshire there are disparities in economic activity and employment rates across different geographic areas. A number of areas within the county, such as Northampton and South Northamptonshire, have performed strongly in recent years and now have relatively strong economies with good prospects for growth. However, despite strong employment growth, these areas are often in close proximity to, or include, communities which continue to experience high unemployment and difficulties in accessing the opportunities being created. In deprived areas (including those in rural areas) the barriers are more cultural and psychological. There are particular challenges over the aspirations of people in areas where unemployment is at high levels and in households with intergenerational unemployment.

There are significant barriers preventing people from accessing new job opportunities, both in peripheral areas and also parts of the county that are located close to buoyant areas of employment growth. In addition, youth unemployment is relatively high within the county in areas such as Corby, Kettering and Northampton and Wellingborough.

The Northamptonshire ESIF strategy has been developed to support Northamptonshire's agreed vision, as set out in the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for economic development and growth. It is based on an analysis of the area's main challenges, needs, strengths and opportunities as set out in the socio-economic and SWOT analyses and the policy frameworks.

There are two projects/themes being delivered in the Northamptonshire LEP area through Building Better Opportunities:

- Overcoming barriers to work - supporting troubled families, people with disabilities, people with drug and alcohol dependency and those that have caring responsibilities.
- Overcoming barriers to work - supporting young people (especially those that are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET), people who are looked after, in care or are care leavers, people who are ex-offenders or supervised by the Youth Offending Team and homeless people.

Applicants should ensure they are fully aware of the other project we will be funding in the Northamptonshire LEP area (even if they only plan to submit an application for this project).

Project aim

This project is specifically aimed at supporting young people, especially those that are: not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET, those looked after, in care and care leavers. As well as individuals that are either ex-offenders or supervised by the Youth Offending Team or homeless.

The project should focus on those people who are furthest from the labour market, helping them onto the pathway to employment. Employment will be one measure, but so too will be the confidence of these people to progress onto other training, education or volunteering opportunities. The project should provide the means through which disadvantaged people become work-ready, and are able to access learning, training and job opportunities. It will also engage and support disadvantaged people to enable them to overcome barriers to employment.

Project description

The project should develop a package of sustainable support to people to enable them to progress to learning, employment and enterprise. It should provide wrap-around support to help them address the full range of barriers to employment they are experiencing.

The specific activities to be delivered through this project should be determined by applicants and clearly articulated in the stage one application form, but possible activities could include:

- a holistic assessment of each individual's needs, followed by tailored support measures;
- support to address wider barriers to employment, signposting and referring participants on

to mainstream and other services, as necessary. For example:

- reducing drug and alcohol dependency;
- access to flexible affordable childcare;
- access to transport;
- provision of debt and money management skills;
- addressing digital inclusion;
- support to become work-ready (for example, careers advice, access to learning, training, volunteering and work experience opportunities).

Applicants are encouraged to consider a wide range of innovative delivery models.

Project location

The project should be delivered across the Northamptonshire LEP area which includes Northampton, Corby, Kettering, Daventry, East Northamptonshire, South Northamptonshire and Wellingborough, targeting those wards that have longer term unemployed individuals.

Project participants

All participants must be unemployed or economically inactive as defined in our programme guide.

All participants should either be: young people (especially those that are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET); people who are looked after, in care or are care leavers; people who are ex-offenders or supervised by the Youth Offending Team; or homeless people.

Whilst we can support activities for young people between the ages of 15 and 18, there is a new statutory requirement for this age group to remain in education, employment or training. We can only pay for activities working with young people who are aged 16-29 and who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and young people aged 15-18 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. Young people below the age of 15 are ineligible participants. Unless the project is specifically aimed at young people, those aged 29+ remain eligible participants.

Project outputs and results

The project must deliver the following outputs and results within its lifetime:

- At least 366 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - 183 men;
 - 183 women;
 - 183 people who are unemployed;
 - 183 people who are economically inactive;
 - 59 people with disabilities;
 - 58 people aged 50 or over;
 - 29 people from ethnic minorities.

N.B. each person can be counted against more than one category.

- At least 13 per cent of the people enrolled on the project move into education or training on leaving.
- At least 13 per cent of people move into employment, including self-employment, on leaving. Of these, 50 per cent must have been unemployed when joining the project and 50 per cent must have been economically inactive.
- At least 27 per cent of people who were economically inactive when joining the project move into job-search on leaving.
- In addition, you must ensure that anyone who needs access to childcare in order to participate

in the project receives childcare support. This will be checked through a survey run by the Managing Authority.

These are the **minimum** targets we expect your project to deliver within its lifetime. Tell us if you will be able to support more people through the project, as this could have a bigger impact. Our assessment of your stage one application will take into account the different types of change that participants of the project will experience. If you are successful at stage one, we will ask you to develop a set of project outcomes that you will deliver alongside the outputs outlined above.