

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project title	Project 1 of 3 - Supporting families with complex needs
LEP area	Thames Valley Berkshire
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£1,097,900
Project start period	March 2016 to August 2016
Latest date for completion	December 2019
Date open for applications	Tuesday 1 st September 2015
Deadline for stage one applications	12 noon on Monday 30 th November 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 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 to 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 <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf>.

Project background

Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has a strong focus on reducing economic inactivity and increasing workforce skills by promoting access to employment, social inclusion and skills for growth. The LEP's ESIF strategy contributes to social inclusion by supporting activities that will extend employment opportunities to disadvantaged people in the labour market who fall outside of existing work schemes.

Whilst Berkshire is a comparatively affluent area, there are some specific pockets of deprivation. Local research shows that these levels of deprivation equal or exceed those in the most challenged wards in the country. The research identifies a number of wards as performing badly against all seven indices of multiple deprivations: employment, income, child poverty, health, education, older peoples' poverty and crime.

Data from the six Berkshire Local Authorities has identified that, in addition to the many families within Berkshire who meet the Troubled Families national criteria, there are others who do not fall under this criteria, yet do display some of its elements. These families have issues such as intergenerational unemployment, a history of offending, involvement with anti social behavior and poor school attendance and would benefit from support to gain skills for work and employment opportunities.

Government data collected in October and November 2011 estimated that £9 billion is spent annually on troubled families - an average of £75,000 per family each year. Of this, an estimated £8 billion is spent reacting to the problems these families have and cause, with just £1 billion being spent on helping families to solve and prevent problems in the longer term.

An evaluation report by the National Centre for Social Research shows that intensive intervention to support and challenge Troubled Families is effective in turning round their lives - a family getting intensive support and challenge is twice as likely to stop anti-social behaviour as one not getting the intervention.

There are three projects being delivered in the Thames Valley Berkshire area through Building Better Opportunities:

- Project 1 - Supporting families with complex needs;
- Project 2 - Promoting enterprise;
- Project 3 - Addressing barriers to work.

Applicants should ensure they are fully aware of the other projects we will be funding in the Thames Valley Berkshire area (even if they only plan to submit an application for this project). Further information about the additional barriers referred to above, and more supporting information that should be considered when completing the application, can be found on the LEP website, which can be accessed via the link published on the Big Lottery Fund website:

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/building-better-opportunities/thames-valley-berkshire>

Assessment will include consideration of how well applications address the information contained in relevant parts of the local ESIF strategy and this document.

Project aim

This project aims to support adults and young people to receive support and access to training to improve their employability skills, in order to support their entry into the job market.

The focus here will be to work with families who have at least one of the six problems identified by [government policy](#). Participants may be eligible for the national programme although delivery under this project must be additional to the Troubled Families programme and focus on supporting a move towards the labour market. The project aims to help economically inactive and unemployed people to gain employment and/or training by tackling barriers that may be preventing them from working, and entering into sustained employment. This will be through the provision of skills for work and employment opportunities.

Project description

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:

- ensuring that all appropriate family members are making best use of the existing employment support, advice and training support available through other services, signposting and referring participants on, as appropriate;
- supporting family members with welfare guidance and help on financial issues, particularly debt management;
- providing bespoke support on practical issues such as childcare options and tax credit entitlements when returning to employment;
- addressing intergenerational attitudes and the culture of welfare dependency;
- providing intensive family support to ensure that the complexities of each family are understood; using a solution-focused approach to solve some of the significant underlying problems that the families are facing;
- developing a bespoke employability offer for families. This might include information, advice and guidance, improving employability and interview skills, providing access to work experience and volunteering opportunities and helping participants apply for jobs.

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

Project location

The project should be delivered across the whole of the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP area.

Project participants

All participants must be unemployed or economically inactive as defined in our programme guide. The project will have a specific focus on working with families who have at least one of the problems identified by government policy as detailed below; ,

- families where there is a history of inter-generational unemployment or economic inactivity;
- families where more than one family member is unemployed or economically inactive;
- families with a member of the household who is unemployed/economically inactive and where there are other indicators from early years, health, police, housing, education and children's and adults services that has led to the identification of the family as needing additional support to re-engage with employment.

This project may include participants eligible for the Troubled Families programme, however it must be additional to the programme and must focus onto supporting a move towards the labour market. 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.

This project can support individuals within families that are younger than 15, but only those who are 15 and above and meet the eligibility criteria set out in our Programme guide can be counted as participants.

Project outputs and results

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

- At least 275 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - o 138 men;
 - o 137 women;
 - o 137 people who are unemployed;
 - o 138 people who are economically inactive;
 - o 56 people with disabilities;
 - o 55 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.