

European Social Fund



Do you want to win ESF funding for your borough?

We can help! We offer intensive support – free of charge – to help you take full advantage of the £370 million London ESF programme. With our help you can make sure that you:

- have advanced knowledge of ESF opportunities coming on-line
- understand ESF and how it works
- have the advice you need to develop sub-regional consortia bids with other boroughs
- respond effectively to ESF specifications – what to say, how and when
- maximise your chance of winning funding

The London 2007-13 ESF programme will invest £370million ESF in projects for ‘extending employment opportunities’ and ‘developing a skilled and adaptable workforce’. The next funding rounds will start in Spring/Summer 2010.

Although there is a real opportunity for London’s boroughs to access funding from this programme, the specifications that are advertised are now often very large and it can be difficult for boroughs to access ESF.

We are now able to provide intensive support to help boroughs take full advantage of the ESF funds available in London. GLE has won ESF Technical Assistance funding to help ensure that London’s boroughs are well placed to access ESF funding.

How can we help?

A dedicated ESF web page www.londoncouncils.glegroup.co.uk/fundingprogs/ESF.php will bring together up-to-date information on the London Councils, DWP, LDA, LSC (from April 2010, the SFA and YPLA) and National Offender Management Service (NOMs) ESF programmes in a single portal, with detailed information on tendering rounds and application procedures.

Our quarterly electronic ESF bulletin for London boroughs will provide updates on ESF co-financing programmes, interviews with project managers, success stories and information on upcoming events.

We will put together a tailored workshop for your borough, working with officers and/or members to look at how ESF can help deliver borough priorities, discuss any concerns you might have about ESF, look at how ESF can add value and consider which of the London co-financing programmes could meet your objectives.



MAYOR OF LONDON



We will follow up workshops with **in-depth one-to-one meetings** to go through ESF applications with those boroughs who decide to submit ESF tenders and to discuss potential cross-borough consortium tenders.

We will provide **an information and advice service to your borough** (and, if you request it, to your third sector providers and partners) by telephone and email. We will offer advice and support on all aspects of the London ESF programme and related research and policy.

We will host a series of **London-wide ESF workshops for borough officers**, focusing on ESF tendering rounds open to boroughs and focusing on key information such as:

- summary of key information in programme guides, calls for proposals
- step-by-step guide to the application process and route to funding for each CFO
- eligibility requirements, deadlines and success criteria
- finding partner organisations in London

Our support doesn't end there. If you win ESF, we will offer workshops to support successful project delivery, complementing support from CFOs, avoiding duplication and tailoring advice specifically to borough officers. We will focus on practical issues that arise in ESF projects, such as evaluation, monitoring and reporting and addressing cross-cutting themes.

Consortium-building event for Boroughs and 3rd sector partners

With larger ESF specifications, you may think about working on a consortium basis with other boroughs, potentially with third sector providers. To support this we will organise a one-day workshop for boroughs – and third sector providers on borough request – to:

- identify the aims, benefits and challenges of different consortium models
- engage with ESF contract opportunities using a consortium model
- demonstrate and implement robust internal systems and processes
- measure and report organisational and contract performance

We will facilitate discussions between boroughs to explore consortium development for ESF tenders, followed by workshops with in-depth advice and support for consortia tenders.

For more information, please contact Rosemary Maguire at rosemary.m@gle.co.uk 020 7940 1559

To participate in the bi-monthly borough officer forums, please contact Arjun Singh-Muchélle at arjun.s@gle.co.uk 020 7940 1574.