

Community Education Fund Round 36

Deadline: 5pm, Monday, 7th June 2021

Open to learning or training providers including colleges, training companies, voluntary organisations, charities, housing associations, community groups, schools, nurseries and local authority services.

Do you want to deliver learning opportunities for adults or families in West Berkshire?

Do you want to research the learning needs of a particular community group or area?

Can you deliver learning in partnership with others?

West Berkshire Council's Community Education Fund exists to enable you to help others to learn and to encourage innovation and research.

'Partnership working is outstanding....' Ofsted 2015

For more information contact
Community Learning Team
aclteam@westberks.gov.uk
01635 519060

Download the documents at the bottom of our web page [here](#)

The Community Learning team particularly welcomes bids from new organisations and will provide support on the bid process.

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The Community Education Fund provides funding for specific projects or courses that focus on widening participation in education for adults aged 19+ and families living in West Berkshire. The fund supports the Council's [Community Learning and Skills Strategy: Learning for Life 2015 -2019](#).

Funding Available within Adult Education

Funding is available for projects working with any of the following key priority groups:

- Adults with disabilities and learning difficulties
- Vulnerable older adults
- Adults who are unemployed or under employed
- Adults with no qualifications or low levels of skills
- Adults with mental health issues
- Parents/families who need help to support children's learning and development
- Ex- offenders and probation clients
- Adults with or recovering from drug or alcohol dependency
- Adults suffering from domestic abuse
- Carers of vulnerable adults/children

Projects that specifically address the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic are particularly welcome. These could include wider delivery methods such as on-line courses and blended learning, job search and employment skills and initiatives to support vulnerable families and adult mental health.

Funding can be awarded under the following strands:

- **Adult Education (non-accredited)**

Government funded Adult Education includes non-accredited learning (formerly called Community Learning) which is designed to support adults (19+) to re-connect with learning, develop health and wellbeing, gain employment, prepare for progression to formal courses, develop local communities or learn how to support their children's learning and development.

- **Adult Education (accredited)**

Accredited Adult Education relates to qualification based courses that are part of a regulated framework approved by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, for adults aged 19+. Applications are invited to deliver qualifications that support people without level 2 qualifications, learners with GCSE English or Maths at below grade 4 or for adults who are unemployed and on active benefits.

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Who can apply to the fund?

Any organisation that provides education and training opportunities in West Berkshire aimed at one or more of the key priority groups outlined above. This includes community and voluntary groups, colleges, academies and schools.

What sort of projects will the fund support?

The fund will support a wide range of projects such as employability, further learning and skills training and courses that support families, health and well-being and community development. In addition, the fund can be used to support research into new adult learning opportunities that address the needs of West Berkshire communities.

Programmes can range from short one-day tasters to longer six to ten week projects. The fund may support all or part of the project such as tutor costs, transportation, project management time, crèche facilities and course materials.

How much funding can I apply for?

Applications up to a maximum of £10,000 per organisation will be considered. Successful applications for non-accredited learning will be awarded a grant. The average grant for non-accredited learning is around £2,500.

For accredited learning, funding is awarded on a per qualification basis. This will be based on the ESFA programme weighted funded rate (excluding area uplifts) as outlined on the [learning aims database](#) and in accordance with the ESFA learner eligibility rules. (See guidance notes for further information).

Is there a timeframe in which the activity has to be completed?

All projects must be delivered by 31st July 2022.

What are the stages of the bid process?

Stage 1 Download the bid form and guidance notes at the bottom of our web page [here](#). Complete and submit the **CEF 36 Bid Form** to acsteam@westberks.gov.uk by **5pm, Monday, 7th June 2021**.

Stage 2 Meeting of the Community Education Fund Panel to review projects and award funds.

Stage 3 Successful bids to be announced during **w/c Monday, 21st June 2021**.



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What do I need to include in the fund application?

The application must include a description of the project and the intended outcomes, how you have identified the need for the course, details of priority groups you will work with, how you will record their progress and achievement, opportunities for progression after the course has finished, planned dates and estimate costs. You also need to identify a Project Manager who will monitor the project throughout each stage and be the main contact with the Community Learning Team. *See the bid guidance notes for more information.*

What does the panel look for when evaluating the bids?

The Community Education Fund panel will score the bids based on the following criteria:

- Project Overview and Priority Groups
- Identifying local need and working in partnership
- Delivery Plan
- Delivering Personalised Learning
- Staff qualifications and experience
- Value for Money

See the guidance notes for an explanation of the scoring criteria.

Do I get help and advice about the form and the project activities?

The Community Learning Team can support you throughout the bid process. Please contact us on 01635 519060 or email acteam@westberks.gov.uk.

