***South East LEP (SELEP) ESF Community Grants***

***London Learning Consortium***

London Learning Consortium is a Community Interest Company that works for the benefit of communities and businesses across London and the Southeast. We deliver skills and education programmes ourselves and in partnership with Voluntary and Community Sector learning providers and other learning and skills delivery organisations. We provide a range of services to our partners and funders within the learning and skills sector. Our work focuses on where the need is and how best to ensure impact.

***Education and Skills Funding Agency***

The ESFA has contracted with LLC to act as a managing agent and to make ESF Community Grants available in the form of small grants (up to £20,000), to third sector and other small organisations for the purpose of mobilising disadvantaged or excluded unemployed and inactive people to enable their progress towards employment.

***ESF (European Social Fund) Funded***

The ESF Community Grants are funded by the European Social Funds.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-social-fund-eligibility-documents/esf-national-eligibility-rules-and-programme-guidance>

**The South East LEP (SELEP)**has agreed a five-year skills strategy to be available at [http://www.southeastlep.com](http://www.southeastlep.com/) accompanied by an evidence base. The Managing Agent’s delivery of the Services must be consistent with the ambition and priority this set out at this link: [www.southeastlep.com/our-strategy/skills/](http://www.southeastlep.com/our-strategy/skills/). As set out in the Skills Strategy, SELEP is committed to building an economy which provides opportunities for all and delivers inclusive growth.

Evidence is clear that access to a long-term job is fundamental to many barriers faced by individuals including mental health, homelessness, ex- offenders, and people with Disabilities. SELEP believes that Small Organisations play a crucial role in supporting individuals and in having a local presence and network essential for providing support.

***ELIGIBILITY***

***Grant Recipient Eligibility***

To be successful in applying for a Community Grant, Applicants must be a Third Sector Organisation (any size which operates within the Third Sector) or Small Organisation (Employ fewer than 49 full time equivalent staff and have an annual turnover or balance sheet equal to or below EUR 10 million).​

**Applicants must be able to provide their last year’s Financial Return.**

Organisations that access grants need to be well placed to reach excluded individuals facing barriers, which hinder their access to mainstream provision Grants. You will:

* engage with marginalised individuals and support them to re-engage with education, training, or employment.
* support a range of activities aimed at assisting the disadvantaged or excluded to move closer to the labour market by improving their access to mainstream ESF and domestic employment and skills provision; and
* provide support to the hardest to reach communities and individuals, especially those from deprived communities, to access employment or further learning and training.

***Target Groups***   

**Participants targeted must be 16 +, Not in Receipt of any type of Income and Not in any type of Training our Courses:**

* Participants over 50 years of age
* Participants with Mental Health, Disabilities and/or Learning Difficulties (LLDD)
* Homeless people
* ex- offenders
* LGBTQ+
* Participants from an ethnic minority (BAME)
* Participants who are Women
* Parents/mothers
* Carers
* Migrants and refugees
* Groups with low labour market participation

***Delivery Area***

**The** **SELEP participants must also be from the following Local Authorities listed below**:

* Essex
* Southend
* Thurrock
* Kent
* Medway
* East Sussex

Although the Panel will consider all Applications equally, we aim to prioritise hotspots of deprivation such as:

* Medway,
* Hastings,
* Basildon,
* Dartford,
* Chelmsford,
* Eastbourne
* Colchester

Applications are continuously welcomed, and Applications submitted late will be discussed during the following Panel Meeting.

**Panel Schedule:** [Microsoft Word - CG-Panel-Schedule-Updated-230420.docx (londonlc.org.uk)](https://www.londonlc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CG-Panel-Schedule-December-2021.pdf)

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[Community Grants (londonlc.org.uk)](https://www.londonlc.org.uk/community-grants/)