MITIGATING AGAINST EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE FUND

DDLETB FUNDING GUIDELINES NOVEMBER 2020

Dublin & Dun Loaghaire Education & Training Board (DDLETB) invite applications from Community Education providers in DDLETB's administrative area for funding from the Government's *Mitigating against Educational Disadvantage Fund*.

This fund is an opportunity to help people in our local communities engage or re-engage in education and training, build their confidence, achieve personal fulfilment and be supported to reach their full potential.

The Fund places a strong focus on community education as a mechanism to continue to support and engage with disadvantaged learners. In addition, there is a focus on enabling the investment in building the digital infrastructure of providers and their capability to ensure that online learning can be delivered in a way that meets the complex needs of all learners.

The purpose of the *Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage Fund* (MAEDF) is to assist Education and Training Boards to increase their capacity and that of community education providers to address the decline in participation of disadvantaged learners, particularly those on literacy and basic skills programmes. Ideally proposals/applications will target learners at levels 1-3 but may target learners at higher levels where the fund is used for learners who are likely to experience educational disadvantage that impacts their participation in a learning programme

The closing date for applications is 5 pm, Friday 27 November.

Please use the official application form. Contact Aedin O'Toole in DDLETB for the application form by emailing aedinotoole@ddletbaes.ie or if you have any other inquiries about this funding.

ELIGIBLE FUNDING CRITERIA

Listed below are the four categories eligible for funding consideration. **Applications will be considered for any one or more than one** of the following:

1) **Digital Technologies** - to supply devices, software and systems, or CPD training, to facilitate high quality learning and delivery.

2) **Learner Assistance Fund** - to help, where appropriate, with costs associated with course participation, such as books and class materials.

3) **Reach-out and/or** mentoring - to assist with costs associated with activities such as awareness raising, and services to promote re-engagement.

4) **COVID-19 Exceptional Circumstances** - for Community Education providers to address the needs educationally disadvantaged learners.

Expenditure

Approved funding allocation for any activity under the MAEDF must:

(a) Be used for specific purpose intended.
(b) **Be expended by 2020 year-end. Funding will not be carried over into 2021.**
(c) Not be used for any pay costs or costs of a recurring nature.

Grantees must also:

(e) Maintain of records of expenditure and other financial, quantitative and qualitative information as required in the service level agreement drawn up between DDLETB and the grantee.

FUNDING CRITERIA

1) Digital Technologies

To supply devices, software or systems where lack of IT is a barrier to learning, or to provide CPD training to facilitate high quality learning and delivery. Consideration will be given to:
- The use of a laptop loan scheme (similar to that used by the HEA).
- A managed device service to ensure IT supports are available to providers to maximise the mitigation of barriers and ICT resourcing at local level.
- Secure relevant software and systems to facilitate high quality learning and delivery.
- CPD training as required.

Please note the capital threshold is based on the cost of any item in excess of €1,000 including VAT. **Capital items cannot be funded through this grant**.

2) Learner Assistance Fund

The Learner Assistance Fund is available to help where appropriate with costs such as:
- Books and class materials,
- Essential travel,
- Childcare costs.

The above list is not exhaustive. it is important that the nature and appropriateness of the expenditure for which assistance is being provided is clearly identified.

3) Reach Out and/or Mentoring

Re-engagement with Learners through Outreach, Engagement and Mentoring Fund is designed to assist with costs associated with activities such as:
- Awareness raising,
- Services to promote re-engagement.

The above list is not exhaustive. It is important that the nature and appropriateness of the expenditure for which assistance is being provided is clearly identified.

4) COVID-19 Exceptional Circumstances

COVID-19 Exceptional Circumstances Fund for Community Education to address the needs educationally disadvantaged learners.

Governance

DDLETB are responsible for the administration and management of funding allocated by SOLAS under the *Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage Fund*.

Application Documentation

The official application form *DDLETB MAEDF Application Form* must be submitted by the deadline given above of **5 pm on Friday 27 November** to Aedin O'Toole, email: aedinotoole@ddletbaes.ie

Review of Applications

DDLETB will review applications received using the criteria for this funding through an internal review group. Successful applications recommended by DDLETB for funding will also be prioritised for funding consideration by SOLAS, where funding requests exceeds the funds available.

A set criteria will be used to review all project applications. The following factors will be considered when DDLETB review applications for funding:

1. Does the project/initiative have a clear and demonstrable education outcome?
2. Would funding this project result in the duplication of the work and funding of agencies whose specific remit is community development?
3. Would funding this project duplicate other SOLAS funding to the same organisation for the same purpose and same group of learners?
4. Does the application/documentation satisfy all governance requirements and provide satisfactory assurances on how the funding would be spent if approved?