

LSIS Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund

Invitation

1. LSIS is pleased to invite bids from learning and skills provider organisations to join the new Stepping Up in Sustainability (SuS) Fund. The fund is designed to support projects to evaluate, further develop, expand and embed effective approaches to sustainable development, and to share these approaches and systems with other providers.
2. Bids, up to a maximum of £25,000, may be submitted by provider organisations working individually or in collaboration with others but must be for activities that would have transferable learning and benefits for the wider sector rather than just an individual organisation. **For more details about eligibility, please refer to the accompanying FAQs.**
3. Projects for which bidding is sought can focus on sustainable development within a specific aspect of providers' operations and provision – such as:
 - Curriculum;
 - Learning delivery and support;
 - Capacity building among staff and/or learners;
 - Operations and estates;
 - Strategy and leadership;

or can cover several or all of these themes.
4. Successful bids, while having a focus on sustainable development, will also reflect an awareness of and commitment to other cross-cutting themes such as community development, equality and diversity, learner engagement and social inclusion, which are strongly allied to sustainable development within the learning and skills sector. Bidders are also encouraged to set out how learners, the local community and other stakeholders can be actively engaged with and contribute to the proposed project or activity.
5. Bids should show how the projects will support outcomes in teaching and learning - the core mission and purpose of the bidding organisation(s) and the sector as a whole.
6. The LSIS Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund is only open to organisations in England whose primary function is as a provider of further education and training. Eligible providers will be SFA/YPLA-funded organisations (excluding schools) subject to inspection by Ofsted. The only eligible Higher Education Institutions would be those with learning and skills provision funded by the SFA/YPLA. This aspect of their provision would also be subject to inspection by Ofsted. Consultancies or other bodies involved in supporting learning and skills providers, student representative bodies, schools and school sixth forms are not currently eligible. Non-FE organisations (including providers funded by BIS) may be part of a consortium which submits a bid, provided that the lead organisation is a recognised learning and skills provider, and that the outcomes from the project offer clear and sustainable benefits to other organisations within the learning and skills sector.
7. Providers should only submit one bid.
8. Successful bidders will be expected to:
 - produce a case study of their activity to go on the Excellence Gateway using a template supplied by LSIS;
 - organise and run two seminars to disseminate their learning;

- produce a written, qualitative and quantitative assessment of the outcomes from the project and its impact, both within the originating organisation(s) and (through the dissemination events) within other providers;
 - attend and present findings at an LSIS national conference;
 - participate in network activities during and beyond the life of the project/activity.
9. Bids should be submitted on the accompanying application form by **12:00 midday on Wednesday 30th June 2010**.
10. Successful projects will receive funding in the form of a grant. Half will be payable once the project funding has been approved. The rest will be paid on receipt of a satisfactory case study and the impact assessment report.
11. Funded projects will normally be completed within the 2010-11 financial year – ie by 31 March 2011.

Criteria for selecting LSIS Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund bids

12. The following criteria will be applied in selecting bids:
- presents a clear understanding of and focus on sustainable development as commonly defined (see below);
 - sets out defined, quantifiable anticipated benefits and impacts in terms of embedding sustainable development within the bidding provider or consortium;
 - includes strategies for stimulating behaviour change within organisations as well as embedding sustainable development within policy and practice;
 - sets out a realistic strategy for sharing and dissemination of learning with other providers, and an assessment of the impact of this dissemination (in other words, how it is anticipated the other providers will benefit from and apply the learning);
 - promotes equality of opportunity;
 - clearly indicates any preparatory research establishing the need for the project;
 - sets out the main project activities, with clear dates and milestones;
 - indicates how any collaborative or partnership activities will be managed successfully;
 - does not include significant capital expenditure (No more than 20% of the total bid);
 - does not exceed a total cost of £25,000;
 - represents good value for money;
 - provides clear measures for evidencing project success;
 - clearly describes arrangements for reporting on and sharing project outcomes, including the lessons learned;
 - includes an onward dissemination strategy and sets out the outputs that will be shared with the sector via the Excellence Gateway.
13. The Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund is not founded on a single definition of sustainable development or sustainability, but on a number of common and traditional interpretations, such as the 'Brundtland' definition¹. These definitions, while varied, share a focus on the principle of meeting needs and maintaining quality of life both in the present and for future generations. They

¹ "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." – *Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*, 1987

also share a focus on systems thinking, which takes into account the economic, social and environmental needs and considerations that 'development' should address or take account of, and the economic, social and environmental impacts and outcomes of such development. Bids for the Fund should therefore be focused upon and demonstrate such an understanding of sustainable development, and the activities proposed should have a focus on short-, medium- and long-term economic and social outcomes as well as environmental sustainability. For more background information, please visit <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/about-sustainable-development.html>.

Review and reporting arrangements

14. A brief interim report (4 sides of A4 on a template supplied by LSIS) will be required at the halfway stage of the project and a final report by the agreed end date. Details of the reporting required will be supplied to successful applicants.

Applications

15. In order to maximise the benefits across the sector, bids are limited to one per provider/consortium.
16. To apply for the Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund, please complete, clearly and concisely, all the boxes on the accompanying form, to include a breakdown of the total cost of the project, with the contribution requested from LSIS, and the anticipated project start and end dates.
17. Applications must not duplicate activities which are being funded from elsewhere, though proposals may follow on from previous projects. Please state if the project has previously received funding from LSIS or elsewhere, or has previously been submitted to LSIS for programme funding.
18. Applications should be emailed to nathan.hawkins@lsis.org.uk, titled 'LSIS Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund'. If you have any questions, please contact the LSIS helpline on 0870 211 3434.
19. The closing date for applications is **12:00 midday on Wednesday 30th June 2010**.
20. All organisations submitting bids to the Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund will be advised by **Friday 23rd July** whether their application has been successful, and given details of arrangements for the payment of the grant for this work.
21. Successful bidders will be invited to a project initiation workshop in London on either **Wednesday 28th July** or **Tuesday 14th September**, and will be offered further support during the course of their project.