

Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	The Learner Fund
Name of the instrument - English translation	The Learner Fund
Scheme ID	115
Country	 Ireland
Reporting year	2020
Type of instrument	Grant for individuals
Sub-type of instrument	Lump-sum support
Type of entry	Single instrument

Short description	Staff working directly with children in registered early years services can apply for the grant. The eligible education and training activities include level 5 and level 6 awards in childcare. The public co-funding share is 75% of the eligible costs (the maximum cost of the course is EUR 750). Learners pay 25% of the cost of the course (i.e. no more than EUR 187,5 as the maximum cost of the course is EUR 750). No preferential treatment is applied.
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Level of operation	Sectoral
Name of a part of the country	Not applicable
Name of the region (for regional instruments)	Not applicable
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Child care
Relevance	Further instrument
Legal basis	Initiative of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.
Objective(s) and target(s)	To assist workers in the early years sector meet the minimum requirements for workers in the early years sector
Year of implementation	2014

Operation/management	Department of Children and Youth Affairs is responsible for funding the initiative and Pobal (not-for-profit company that manages programmes on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU) is responsible for co-ordinating applications from training providers to be approved for delivering training as well as co-ordinating applications from learners. City/County Childcare Committees review learner applications.
Eligible group(s)	Staff working directly with children in registered early years services can apply for the grant.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	No preferential treatment
Education and training eligible	Level 5 and Level 6 awards in childcare (ISCED 97 5)
Source of financing and collection mechanism	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	The public co-funding share is 75% of the eligible costs (the maximum cost of the course is EUR 750). Learners pay 25% of the cost of the course (i.e. no more than EUR 187,5 as the maximum cost of the course is EUR 750).
Eligible costs	Specific arrangement
Volumes of funding	2018: EUR 411 758 2017: EUR 519 209 2016: EUR 684 129
Beneficiaries/take up	2018: 549 2017: 1 082 2016: 1 032
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	Not applicable
Most relevant webpage - in English	https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/learnerfund/Pages/default.aspx
Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/learnerfund/Pages/default.aspx
Recent changes	No recent amendment Recent changes in response to COVID-19 No changes
Sources	https://www.pobal.ie/Publications/Documents/Learner%20Fund%202020-%20April%202020.pdf https://www.pobal.ie/Publications/Documents/Learner%20Fund%20List%20of%20Programmes%202020.pdf https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2019/11/Pobal_Annual-Report-and-Annual-Plan-2019-2020.pdf https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2018/06/Pobal-Annual-Report-2017.pdf

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