


## Financing adult learning database

<b>Name of the instrument - Local language</b>	The Learner Fund
<b>Name of the instrument - English translation</b>	The Learner Fund
<b>Scheme ID</b>	115
<b>Country</b>	 Ireland
<b>Reporting year</b>	2015
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Grant for individuals
<b>Type of entry</b>	Single instrument

<b>Short description</b>	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 1 600).
<b>Short description of the related instruments</b>	nap

<b>Level of operation</b>	Sectoral
<b>Name of a part of the country</b>	nap
<b>Name of the region (for regional instruments)</b>	nap
<b>Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)</b>	nap
<b>Relevance</b>	Marginal scheme
<b>Objective(s) and target(s)</b>	To assist workers in the early years sector meet the minimum requirements for workers in the early years sector by September 2015.
<b>Year of implementation</b>	2014
<b>Year of latest amendment</b>	2015

<b>Operation/management</b>	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.
<b>Eligible group(s)</b>	Staff working directly with children in registered early years services.
<b>Group(s) with preferential treatment</b>	None
<b>Education and training eligible</b>	Level 5 and Level 6 awards in childcare (ISCED 97 5)
<b>Source of financing and collection mechanism</b>	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
<b>Financing formula and allocation mechanisms</b>	Learners pay 25% of the cost of the course (i.e. no more than EUR 400 as the maximum cost of course is EUR 1 600).
<b>Eligible costs</b>	Specific arrangement
<b>Frequency of the use</b>	Only once
<b>Volumes of funding</b>	In 2014 and 2015, each year EUR 1 500 000 were used for funding within this scheme.
<b>Beneficiaries/take up</b>	na
<b>Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation</b>	Pobal.
<b>Monitoring/evaluation reports available</b>	na
<b>Most relevant webpage - in English</b>	<a href="https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/learnerfund/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/learnerfund/Pages/default.aspx</a>
<b>Most relevant webpage - local language</b>	<a href="https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/learnerfund/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/learnerfund/Pages/default.aspx</a>
<b>Sources</b>	<a href="https://www.pobal.ie/Publications/Documents/Learner%20Fund%20-%20Ap...">https://www.pobal.ie/Publications/Documents/Learner%20Fund%20-%20Ap...</a> <a href="https://www.pobal.ie/Publications/Documents/Learner%20Fund%20List%20of%...">https://www.pobal.ie/Publications/Documents/Learner%20Fund%20List%20of%...</a>