## City of Edinburgh Council – Parental Employment Support Fund Grants

**Following funding from Scottish Government’s** [**Parental Employment Support Fund**](http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/policy/current-policy-developments/)**, The City of Edinburgh Council (Business Growth and Inclusion) would like to invite applications for Third Party organisations to deliver our programme of grant-funded projects. This fund will be integrated with our existing Employability Third Party Grants Programme,** [**NEST**](https://www.joinedupforjobs.org/service-providers/nest) **(Network of Employment Support and Training).**

**1 Invite for applications**

Applications are invited for provision of services at any stage of the Strategic Skills Pipeline which will support **parents** to progress into employment or to progress within employment.

Organisations can make several applications, but each should be for a separate and distinct project and must aim to support a different cohort of clients.

All applications should make reference to the Strategic Skills Pipeline – a copy of the Pipeline can be found [here](https://www.joinedupforjobs.org/uploads/store/mediaupload/200/file/Strategic%20Skills%20Pipeline%20FINAL%20MASTER%20(July-20).pdf).

Applications should be emailed to [craig.dutton@capitalcitypartnership.org](mailto:craig.dutton@capitalcitypartnership.org)

**The deadline is NOON, Thursday 20th August, 2020.**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

**2 Impact of Covid-19**

The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a public health emergency and the public, private and third sector response to the crisis has been immense. It is now clear that the economic impact and road to recovery should become our new priority. Job losses and employment insecurity are now at an unprecedented scale and opportunities are more scarce. Crisis-hit families require support to access and sustain employment in labour market sectors that are more robust to distancing requirements.

In May 2020, Edinburgh Poverty Commission published an interim report ‘[Poverty and Coronavirus in Edinburgh](https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20200518_EPC_Coronavirus_Report.pdf)’. The report discusses the disproportional impacts on low income families who were more likely to work in shutdown sectors, women, young people and BAME families.

The Edinburgh Parental Support Grants will engage with these families and progress will be reported to the Edinburgh Child Poverty Group which is focussing on the recommendations of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

Fair work and sustainable long-term employment will be a goal of this fund, contributing to the economic recovery of the City and families’ economic resilience. Grant-funded projects should aim at supporting individuals into sectors where there is likely to be jobs and growth in the short to medium term. This is likely to be in care (child, health and social care), online retail and distribution, and digital. Detailed information on potential growth sectors can be found in Skills Development Scotland’s analysis ‘[Covid Impacts Edinburgh and South East Scotland’.](https://www.joinedupforjobs.org/uploads/store/mediaupload/195/file/COVID-19%20Impacts%20-%20Edinburgh%20and%20South%20East%20Scotland_.pdf)

Grant applicants should ensure that all provision is carried out within health and safety guidelines and risk assessments should be carried out. Scottish Government guidance on social distancing must be adhered to. Online and telephone-based delivery will be acceptable if face-to-face methods are not possible.

**2 Focus of grant programme**

Capital City Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council will conduct a grants programme to support families impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and in line with the principles of the Scottish Government’s [**No-one Left Behind**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/one-left-behind-next-steps-integration-alignment-employability-support-scotland/) and [**Every Child, Every Chance**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/)policies.

The fund will be focussed on parents from two main groups:

* **Those who are out of work and in receipt of benefits**
* **Those who are in low income employment**

We expect that around **two-thirds** of clients engaged by the grants programme will be in the second group (low income employment) corresponding with findings that children of working parents are more likely to live in relative poverty.

Grant funded programmes will work with the following group(s):

* Lone Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty
* Parents with a disability or families who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have a disabled child
* Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have 3 or more children
* Parents from a minority ethnic background who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty
* Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have a youngest child <1.
* Parents who are aged <25 who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty

**3 Delivery of services**

Applicants should be aware of the following parameters for this grants programme:

* All individuals in receipt of support must be parents domiciled in Edinburgh City with dependent children and be in one or more of the parental groups detailed above.
* All participants should be supported to develop an action plan with milestones based on a strengths-focussed assessment.
* Participants should engage with the grant-funded programme for a minimum of 5 hours per week.
* Grant-funded services should include a range of supports and include: skills development, health support, money advice and motivational support with the goal of either entering employment or progressing/retaining employment.
* Delivery should include skills and training which is directly aligned with labour market needs.
* Support should continue for the duration of the programme, clients who are engaged as unemployed and subsequently enter employment should be supported to move to higher paid or higher-skills level jobs.
* Two-thirds of the overall programme will be focussed support for people in low income employment. Applicants can apply to work with people who are unemployed or employed status or both, but the overall grant programme will be focussed (minimum 65%) on clients who are already in some kind of paid employment.
* Projects mustdemonstrate a clear pathway to enter or progress within key growth sectors.

The total funding available is £500,000 over the lifetime of the grant programme. We intend to fund four projects up to £125,000 to deliver services to unemployed and/or low-income parents. Grants will be awarded for a maximum of eighteen months from 1st October 2020. It is expected that each project will engage with 80-100 individuals.

There is an opportunity to support parents who are interested in training or re-training to access jobs in the digital sector. One bid will be selected on this basis. This project will align with courses delivered by the Data Driven Innovation Gateway of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and provide pre and post training support. More information on the DDI workstream can be found [here](https://ddi.ac.uk/data-talent-for-people/data-driven-innovation-skills-gateway/).

Partnership bids are welcomed but a lead partner should complete Part A of the application form. Applicants are advised to consider sustainability of funding after the eighteen-month period, as there can be no certainty of continuation of funding.

Targeted outcomes are detailed in the PESF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. All provision should be client-focused.

We are not precluding projects that demonstrate end-to-end delivery however any provision that does so should be able to make a *particularly strong case* around avoiding duplication with National Training Programmes and Fair Start Scotland.