

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund People & Skills call for projects – Community-led employment support– Frequently Asked Questions**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is part of the Government's Levelling Up programme aiming to level up all parts of the UK. The key aim of the fund is to:

* Increase productivity, salaries, job opportunities and standards of living through the growth of the private sector;
* Increase opportunities and improve public services with a focus on areas in the most need;
* Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging;
* Empower local businesses, leaders and communities to increase the opportunities available to them.

In addition to the questions below and information contained within the application guidance document, potential bidders have until 5pm on Friday 5 January 2024 to address any questions on the call to UKSPF@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

# General Questions

**How much funding is available for this project and what is it to be used for?**

There is £3,350,000 of funding available to deliver community-led employment support. Funding of between £0.5m and £1m will be awarded to help economically inactive and socially excluded individuals to engage with a key worker to access support services and find employment or enter training or education.

**What is the application process?**

The window for applications is: 13/11/2023 –12/01/2024. The closing date for applications is 5pm on 12/01/2024. All applications are to be submitted to UKSPF@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk before the deadline.

**When will successful bidders be notified?**

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of January 2024.

**When will delivery need to commence?**

Delivery will need to commence in April 2024.

**What are the timescales for delivery?**

The project is to commence following award of contract in April 2024 and is to run until March 2025. All funding must be spent, and delivery complete by 31 March 2025.

**If grant funding has already been received and/or businesses are currently under a separate grant funding agreement with LCRCA, can they still apply for this UKSPF funding?**

Yes, organisations who have previously or are currently receiving funding from LCRCA, can apply for funding under this call.

**The information about the call for projects says there is £3.35m allocated to community-led employment support strand. Is that full amount to be allocated through this call (i.e. between 4 and 6 different projects, valued between £0.5m and £1m)?**

LCRCA reserve the right to fund multiple projects up to the total available under this call but won’t necessarily allocate all the funding if the CA feels there aren’t enough suitable projects. LCRCA’s funding will depend on the quality of bids and how well we feel they meet the brief.

**Is there a required minimum turnover of the organisations to be eligible to apply?**

There is no minimum turnover required, but we do carry out financial checks to ensure that organisations applying are solvent and have the financial capacity to deliver the proposed project. For consortiums, these checks will primarily be on the lead organisation who will have financial responsibility to LCRCA for the project, however we may carry out more limited due diligence on other consortium members.

**How many years is the funding available for?**The funding is a one-off call for projects, so is only available for this 1-year tranche of activity.

**Is there a specification for this funding?**

This funding is a call for projects not a procurement so there is no specification, and applicants will just need to ensure that their project meets the brief, and that costs, recipients and activity are eligible. All the information needed is on the guidance and links contained within.

Subsidy Control **Can LCRCA clarify the requirement on the application form in relation to Subsidy Control?**

We would like applicants to confirm that they have considered Subsidy Control. Although unlikely, this is also a good place to indicate if you think that subsidy control may apply to you, if successful.

 **Subsidy Control applies to enterprises not individuals (the ultimate beneficiaries of this project) and then only in certain “anti-competitive” conditions. As such, any controls may apply to payments to potential subcontractors, though the end beneficiaries would be economically inactive individuals (to whom subsidy control does not apply). Does LCRCA therefore have any view as to whether Subsidy Control applies to this contract?**

State Aid was previously applicable under EU legislation, its UK replacement is Subsidy Control therefore any previous guidance in relation to State Aid would no longer be applicable.  UKSPF subsidy control guidance can be accessed at UK Shared Prosperity Fund: subsidy control (7) - GWOV.UK (www.gov.uk) . Subsidy Control relates to the potential for one enterprise to be benefitted over another, which would give a competitive advantage in the market. In this instance, the end beneficiaries are individuals not currently in employment.

In line with this guidance, LCRCA considers it likely that most planned activities relating to “people and skills” interventions will not involve subsidies, however individual projects and applications will be reviewed and you will be notified if LCRCA considers that any subsidy control implications may arise and if any mitigations need to be put in place.  It is not expected that you obtain your own subsidy control legal advice, however you are free to do so if you wish.

There are some possible circumstances where Subsidy Control may apply:

* Where subcontractors are being used. This can be mitigated by going through a competitive process to select contractors (so the contract is open to the market), and/or if subcontractors are only providing services on a cost basis and not making any profit, so that there is no competitive advantage.
* Where funding is provided to employers for them to take on economically inactive people to introduce them to the workplace.

In both scenarios, subsidies would relatively low so easy to manage. For that reason, applicants shouldn’t avoid putting them in their proposals due to Subsidy Control concerns, as LCRCA has internal expertise around Subsidy Control who can review and advise applicants.

In the unlikely event that there are Subsidy Control implications, the team will liaise with applicants directly at a later stage.

In summary, whether or not the grant for a particular project will be a subsidy will depend on what the proposed recipient intends to deliver and who the beneficiaries will be.  We will assess each submission against the criteria set out in the Subsidy Control Act 2022 to identify whether any element of the funding may constitute a subsidy as defined in the Act.  If all or any part of the funding for a selected proposal will constitute a subsidy, we will advise the recipient of any control measures that they need to put in place to ensure compliance with the Act.  It is LCRCA's responsibility to assess whether or not any funding it provides will constitute a subsidy, but the recipient's responsibility to implement any identified control measures.  In line with Government expectations for employment and skills UKSPF provision, it is anticipated that most proposals under the call will not constitute subsidies within the meaning of the Act.

# Outputs and Outcomes

**What are the required outputs and outcomes?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Outputs | Economically inactive people engage with a key worker to access support services |
| Outcomes | People in employment, including self-employment following support |
| People in education or training following support |

Further guidance on these can be found via the government website under Section 3 People and Skills, Intervention 33 [Interventions list for England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-england)

**How will the outputs and outcomes be monitored?**

Outputs and outcomes will be monitored quarterly, with delivery partners submitting returns within 15 working days of the end of the quarter. The report will detail progress against outputs and outcomes as well as a narrative around delivery and risks. Partners will also submit a beneficiary return. The LCRCA will provide templates and support for the submission through a dedicated support officer.

**What would be the last date for outcomes to be reported, March 2025 or, for example, June 2025?**

The last possible date for reporting for both outputs and outcomes is April 2025. It is recognised that some outcomes may take longer to come to fruition, so conversations are currently ongoing on potential ways to collect outputs later but there is currently no indication whether or not this will change so we are unable to accept any claims for outcomes forecast beyond 31 March 2025.

**Is there an overall output target the CA is seeking to achieve with this fund?**

Yes, there is an overall target in the LCR Investment Plan, but we would like applications to highlight what they think is realistic to achieve. Therefore, the overall target will not be published.

**The application guidance states that LCRCA “will also review any additional outputs and outcomes you aim to deliver” – is there any merit in proposing relevant additional outputs/outcomes?**

 It is recommended that applications focus on the key outputs and outcomes noted under this funding call. However, any additional and relevant outputs and outcomes outside of those agreed for this call can be counted though are not required and will carry less weight.

**Can job searching be classed as an outcome?**

 The focus of outcomes should be on supporting individuals into employment or training, but job searches can be classed as outcomes.

**For the avoidance of doubt, does a proposed service need to be delivered across all Local Authority areas across Liverpool City Region simultaneously through the 12-month project life?**

No, but we would expect delivery throughout the LCR and reflective of the funding allocation per local authority area.

**Can you tell us where we can find more information about Ways to Work?**

Please refer to the Local authority websites for further information regarding Ways to Work delivery in your local area across the Liverpool City Region.

**Could referral into another service for training e.g. Ways to Work be deemed an eligible outcome?**

A referral to another service could be eligible, however, for bids to score highly they need to demonstrably deliver against the stated outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes outside of those agreed for this call can be counted but are not required and will carry less weight.

Collaborative and complementary working are key principles to delivery of this funding so there is an expectation that programmes will collaborate and cross-refer. Referral to other programmes can also therefore be counted as outcomes.

**How will the different outputs and outcomes be scored?**

 Applications will be assessed and scored with a cumulative assessment being made.

**For the ‘into training’ outcome, the indicator document states ‘People who have received support and who are newly engaged in education (lifelong learning, formal education) or training activities (off-the-job/in-the-job training, vocational training, etc.) immediately upon leaving the project’ do you interpret that to include functional skills training such as basic IT skills or conversational English?**

Yes, these examples would be acceptable.

**Are you working to the ESF basic skills definition or a boarder one to incorporate ‘functional skills’?**

We are not applying the ESF basic skills definition to this call and will be applying the DLUHC definition of basic skills: skills in English, Maths, digital and ESOL.

**In terms of the volumes of outputs and outcomes to be achieved, can LCRCA provide any indicative guidance for what bidders should consider? Are there any targets for E33?**

Further information on E33 can be found on the guidance from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) which can be found here: [Interventions list for England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-england) and further information on the definitions for outputs and outcomes as defined by DLUHC can be found here: [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: outputs and outcomes definitions (2) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-outputs-and-outcomes-definitions-2) (there is a link on that page that takes you to an Excel spreadsheet).

# Application Questions

**Please could you clarify if there is a word limit on question 3.2 “Project governance” in the application form?**

If no word limit is stated there is none. However, we would encourage applicants to make this clear and easy to understand and avoid any potential for ambiguity around governance arrangements. The use of org charts, tables and flowcharts can be useful here.

**How will applications be scored? Is there scoring criteria and are these weighted?**

 As this is a call for projects and not a procurement, there is no eligibility or qualification criteria, but there are scoring criteria and weightings have been set against the criteria. Information outlining the scoring criteria can be found in the Application Guidance document. Further guidance on weightings against these criteria will not be released.

**Can case studies and other supporting evidence be submitted in addition to the stated word counts?**

Yes, we accept supporting evidence in addition to the stated word counts.

**Can supporting evidence be submitted for other questions?**

We are happy to accept supporting evidence - please ensure it is concise, proportionate, relevant and necessary in support of your application,

**In the Guidance document under Deliverability, the evidence listed includes “a Resource Plan”.  However, there is no reference to this in the application form.  Does LCRCA require such a plan to be submitted with the application?  If so, what is meant by this and what do you expect the plan to cover?**

The application form is to elicit your proposed project, how it will be delivered, its impact etc. and the suggested and requested evidence is to back up and lend support to what you’ve put in the application form. In this case, the resource plan is to help us understand what resources are required for you to deliver the project - so a simple plan that is relevant & proportionate, that clarifies resources (e.g. people and materials) assigned to deliver is what we would expect from applicants.

**In Section 7 of the application form, there is a requirement to respond with up to 500 words per bullet point. Where supporting evidence is requested, do LCRCA require narrative within the application form in addition? For example, where an Equality Impact Assessment is required, do LCRCA require up to 500 words on commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion or is the EIA sufficient?**

We would encourage all applicants to fill out all sections of the application form and submit the suggested evidence in support of that. Incomplete answers or missing evidence may result in lower scores.

**In Section 8 of the application form, the table has a section for longer term Impact.  The form points to the guidance, which only references outputs and outcomes.  Therefore, are bidders required to complete the Impact section on the form, and – if so - is there any guidance for this?**

Everything funded by LCRCA under UKSPF is designed to maximise local impact and we would expect applicants to be able to link the outputs and outcomes they can deliver with expected impact.

**Can you please tell me where we can find the main UKSPF Terms and Conditions referred to in clause 2 of the LCR Terms & Conditions in appendix 3?**

These are the LCR Terms & Conditions together the with Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix 2 of the Terms and Conditions doc)

**Can the Authority clarify if there are any eligibility criteria to be applied to potential bidders?**

As this is a call for projects and not a procurement, there is no eligibility criteria, but applicants will need to ensure their project meets the brief and that they are able to deliver LCR-wide within the delivery window. Additionally, due diligence will be undertaken on all successful bidders prior to contract commencement.

# Collaboration and Partnership Working

**Are bids from consortia welcomed?**

Bids from consortia are welcomed and where consortia are formed, we would expect a lead organisation to act on behalf of the consortium.

**Will delivery against this funding duplicate any provision currently in place?**

Consideration of alignment with other city region wide programmes should be demonstrated. All bids must outline how they will provide additionality to existing services including the Ways to Work and Households into Work Programmes and Job Centre Plus provision.

Regarding participants of programmes – they can be registered with more than one project, but only is there is no duplication in the type of support the participant is receiving from each project.

**How will the successful projects connect to the wider employment and skills landscape?**

All bids must outline how delivery will engage with other employment and skills services and demonstrate how effective working relationships will be developed and managed with other providers offering employment and skills support. We are also exploring the best way to link projects in this space up and will outline how this will be done before delivery begins.

We would expect projects to work in collaboration with existing provision, so the ecosystem is complementary. This may include speaking with participants to understand what support they are already receiving, to ensure there is no duplication of provision.

However, if your project is delivering something different that can’t be delivered by the mainstream provision, that is additionality and would be welcomed.

**Can organisations form part of more than one bid?**

There is nothing to prohibit organisations working across multiple bids, but LCRCA would need to check that organisations have the capacity and capability to deliver across these multiple bids and acknowledge this within the application.

Initial evaluation of bids will not look at the organisations involved, as each bid will be assessed on its own individual merits. Once we have reached the stage where we could be awarding 2 or more bids where one organisation is involved, we will check that there is sufficient capacity to deliver the bids.

**Is there a minimum proportion of direct delivery expected from a lead applicant?**

Whilst we have no specific proportion of direct delivery expected by lead applicants, LCRCA would generally expect that if you were the lead applicant you would have the main share of the delivery. An exception to this would be if the lead applicant takes a coordinating/management role due to the type of organisation they are – where this is the case, we would expect that centralised management costs are made clear and that they are reasonable and proportionate Most importantly in the application, it needs to be clear who is doing what.

It is expected that a lead organisation for a consortium will be able to demonstrate that they are either delivering the project (and have the requisite skills and experience to do so) or will have robust arrangements in place to co-ordinate and manage delivery (and have the requisite skills and experience in this co-ordination and management role), or a combination of both.  An organisation can, therefore, hold both operational and management roles to lead a consortium, provided that they are able to evidence their ability to successfully deliver both of these roles within their application.

# Finance

**How is the funding drawn down?**

LCRCA’s standard payment terms are payments in arrears quarterly on defrayment. However, LCRCA recognise that the community and voluntary sector work on different cash flow systems to the private and public sectors.

We can consider payments in advance on a case-by-case basis, and this will need to be agreed and signed off by our Director of Finance to manage the risk to public funding, but there are different payment methods available for these circumstances. The Combined Authority has experience of this and includes it within its policies and strategies to ensure there is no disadvantage to the community and voluntary sector.

It is recommended that if applicants are seeking a different payment method from payments in arrears, they include this within their application and state what they are looking for and why.

**Is match funding an advantage?**

There are no minimum/match funding requirements, however, bidders should seek to maximise the impact of their proposed project and are welcome to demonstrate available match funding if they feel it strengthens their application.Applicants who can demonstrate delivery against the outputs and outcomes as well as additionality (which *may* be maximised through match funded elements) will score highly.

**Will match funding be included in scoring and cost analysis of the budget?**

All elements of the application including budgets and match funding will be assessed as part of the scoring.

**Can match funding be ‘in kind’ and /or cash?**

Match funding can either be ‘in kind’ or cash. However, applicants should provide clarity on the type, source and whether match is secured or still needs to be confirmed.

**Can LCRCA confirm the levels of match provided for Ways to Work and Households into Work**

Match funding is determined on a project-by-project basis and therefore the level of match in other projects is irrelevant to this call.

**Is the payment mechanism cost-recovery or is an element of fixed fee potentially possible?**

LCRCA is working on a cost recovery model and wouldn’t be looking to do fixed fees.

**Would an ILM-type cost of living participation payment for young people engaged in a programme of support be an eligible cost?**

These costs could be eligible, but further information would be required to understand what they entail and that the participants are eligible.

**Would a management fee of, for example, 7% for management and ad hoc additional support, be deemed an eligible cost?**

We would expect to see management fees included within the cost of the programme.

Additional support costs could be eligible, but the Combined Authority would need further information to confirm. It is recommended that applicants are as descriptive as possible about what and why they are being included in their applications.

**Are providers able to include a profit contribution or management fee within their revenue and capital expenditure Annex A return?**

No, grant funded applications should not contain a profit contribution or management fee. Costs associated with the direct delivery of the project should be identified in the application submission.

**Please confirm which costs you expect the 15% FRIC to cover in this instance?**

FRIC (flat rate indirect costs) or ‘overheads’ are the only items which LCRCA won’t require supporting evidence for. A flat rate of 15% of eligible direct staff costs can be claimed by projects to cover indirect eligible costs which cannot be directly linked to project activity because it is difficult, or impossible to quantify a precise amount attributable solely to a single project:

Examples may include premises costs, accountancy costs, utility charges, telephone costs, cleaning and staff costs for people working indirectly on the project.

**Please confirm if you will require defrayal for every item of expenditure.**

Defrayal will be required for every item of expenditure unless it is already included within the FRIC costs.

**Is there a list of eligible costs/expenditure that can be shared with bidders? For example, are premises costs eligible?**

Costs/expenditure are eligible where the activity fits within the scope of a specific call for projects. We don’t maintain an exhaustive list of eligible revenue costs, but they should generally fit within the following expenditure headings:

* Salaries: This includes salaries and on costs of staff directly involved in the delivery of project activity. This includes staff who work 100% of their time on project activity, or part of their time with all hours, including the time spent working on the project, recorded on suitable timesheets (we can provide a template). All staff funded by UKSPF must be able to demonstrate how an individual’s activity directly links to the aims and objectives of the project. Consultants/those secured as contractors through a procurement exercise would be a direct cost (as a fee) not a staff cost.
* Flat Rate Indirect Costs
* Travel & Expenses
* Accommodation Costs - Accommodation costs such as rent or rates that can be directly attributed to the project. For example, if building is used solely for the purposes of the project, then the rent and rates for that building can be included in the project budget. If costs need to be apportioned, then they should be covered by the flat rate indirect cost.
* Grants
* Materials & Consumables
* Training, Marketing & promotion, consultancy, Evaluation,
* Other Revenue

**Please can the Authority clarify what evidence of project costs is required for the quarterly instalments of payments? In Appendix C: LCR Terms & Conditions indicates that “The Grant shall be paid by LCRCA to the Recipient in quarterly instalments in arrears following by submission by the Recipient to LCRCA of evidence that Project costs have been defrayed up to the value of the instalment.”**

We would require the following:

* Evidence of procurement (direct award, three quotes, tender etc. dependent on thresholds)
* Invoice
* Evidence of payment up to defrayment i.e., leaving the bank account.

**Where reference to the 2.5% ‘top-slice’ is made, do applicants need to include this in Annex A as part of the maximum award? For example, if our bid value is £500k does that mean that the 2.5% needs to be within the 500k or over and above the 500k?**

The 2.5% top slice would need to be within the amount requested.

# Value for Money

**Can you indicate a unit price range that is acceptable within the programme design?**

We would encourage bidders to use a unit price range they deem reasonable, proportionate and evidenced against need.

**Can you give the level of outputs and outcomes that are left within the programme planning after initial programmes have been approved?**

All information relevant to applications for this call has been shared. As there is a likelihood of several projects being funded under this call, we are as yet unaware of the outputs and outcomes that will be accounted for under this call.

# Deliverability

**What support is available to implement the projects?**

Delivery partners will receive a designated LCRCA project support officer to support the implementation of the scheme throughout the duration of the UKPSF. The officer will work closely with the delivery team on the scheme to ensure compliance to UKSPF and audit guidance as well as answering general delivery queries. It is also envisaged that a strand board/shared learning group will be set up to report on progress, lessons learnt and sharing best practice across all delivery partners. These arrangements will be finalised before delivery commences.

**Should bids focus on local or City Region-wide delivery?**

Our expectation is that delivery will be City Region-wide rather than covering distinct local authority areas with local-only projects being considered by exception.

**Can previous procurements, for example those undertaken for ESF-funded programmes, be carried forward to this funding?**

UKSPF procurement guidance can be accessed at [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: procurement (8) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-procurement-8) . Provided you originally procured your suppliers in line with the expectations set out in this guidance, the contracts allow for extension, and the activities still align with UKSPF delivery requirements, you may be able to continue these existing contracts without needing to reprocure specifically due to the transfer to UKSPF funding.  We would however advise that partners are committed to ensuring that their project costs represent value for money so may take the opportunity to review their current contractual arrangements and satisfy themselves that they still demonstrate value for money.

The Combined Authority recognises that the timescales applicants are working to are very tight, and therefore a formal tender procedure could mean delivery would be delayed. Applicants should seek to test the market to ensure value for money, but balance this with the need to ensure delivery commences and progresses as quickly as possible.

**What are the evidence requirements for outcomes from the programme? Will self-declaration be acceptable?**

We would encourage applicants to outline their approach in delivery to data collection and evidencing in their application and would like to see all successful projects funded under this call to rely on self-declaration as the last port of call for evidencing rather than the rule. We would need to see that engagement with key worker and support has been offered – evidence that they have gone into employment, start date, the same for training.

# Eligibility of participants

**Is the focus of the call ‘economically inactive’ or ‘socially excluded’ people?**

This strand of work is defined in the DLUHC guidance as E33 which outlines a number of outputs and outcomes. The key outputs and outcomes we have highlighted under this call are those that we have committed to delivering against for the Liverpool City Region (and therefore are not committed to delivering against the other outputs and outcomes).

The DLUHC guidance for E33 uses both the terms ‘economically inactive’ and ‘socially excluded’ so our guidance has been drafted to reflect this. The definitions for both of these terms are outlined below.

Applicants need to be mindful though, of the outputs and outcomes we are looking to address with this call and ensure the focus of their projects reflect these. The focus of our call is on economically inactive individuals and employment support can only be given to those that meet those requirements. We are therefore looking for bids which satisfy this requirement.

The DLUHC definitions of economically inactive and socially excluded are as follows:

- **Economically Inactive** individuals are those not in work and not actively seeking work (unlike unemployed individuals who are actively seeking work). Not all economically inactive individuals claim benefits. For those that do, this would include those claiming either “legacy” benefits or those within specific conditionality regimes in Universal Credit: The former includes Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS). The latter includes claimants within the Preparation Requirement or Work Focused Interview Requirement conditionality regimes. There is no length of time on inactivity required. People count if they are 16+.

- **Socially excluded** means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one of more of following factors: Unemployment, financial hardship, youth or old age, ill health (physical or mental), substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs, discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown, poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards), and crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

These definitions can be found here: <https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiztpni-sOCAxVxWUEAHQocAPsQFnoECBsQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F1140763%2FUKSPF_Indicators_22.02.2023.xlsx&usg=AOvVaw3C6o1BbuLXOZhZ3GgTS7SO&opi=89978449>

**If a participant at the point of enrolling onto a programme is economically inactive and eligible to access the programme, but then their circumstances change and they no longer meet the definition of economically inactive, for example they register as unemployed and receive unemployment related benefits, would they still be eligible, based on their status at the point at which they first accessed the programme?**

The individual would no longer be eligible for the project and any outputs or outcomes could not be claimed (after the date at which they became ineligible).

**Is there an output for socially excluded people?**

No. Socially excluded people are eligible, but the outputs LCRCA are committed to delivering relate to the economically inactive. DLUHC’s definition of the E33 intervention uses both economically inactive and socially excluded but our focus is on economically inactive.

**Is there a proportionality you are expecting between economically inactive and socially excluded individuals? i.e. would you expect more EI individuals?**

We will not set a proportionality between socially excluded and economically inactive.

**Are students deemed economically inactive and therefore, eligible?**

Yes, students will be eligible. Regarding international students: whilst DLUHC’s definition of economically inactive does not specifically mention international students, we recognise that some international students may be eligible to work under their visas. However, we would need to be convinced that there was evidence of the beneficiaries facing disadvantage and of the local impact and benefit of projects focusing on these individuals.

**Is there a minimum and maximum number of individuals enrolled on the programme the Authority would expect a single grant funded programme to support?**

No, but must be achievable and proportionate to the type of activity to be delivered.

**Are asylum seekers with the right to work but not leave to remain part of the economically inactive definition?**

Projects are able to support asylum seekers with the right to work but no leave to remain where they can be satisfied that they are legally eligible e.g. their asylum status remains active and isn’t revoked, their work is linked to skills shortages etc. and can evidence this.

**Does eligibility start at age 16 (comparable with Ways to Work)?**

Yes, eligible participants are 16+.