

Pobal - Ability Programme

The aim of the Ability programme is to bring young people with disabilities who are not work-ready closer to the labour market.

Scheme Details

Status:	Grant Range:	Funding Source:	Cash Type:
Open	Up to €1,000 Up to €5,000 Up to €60,000 Over €60,000	Central Government	Revenue

Exclusions:

Individuals cannot apply for Ability funding.

The points below only apply to individual applicants or lead applicants.

You cannot apply if your organisation:

- Is a for profit organisation.
- Does not have a legal structure. Does not provide support for people with disabilities; or
- You cannot demonstrate that support for people with disabilities is consistent with your organisation's objectives in your governing documents; or
- Does not provide training, pre-employment and employment supports; or
- You cannot demonstrate that training, pre-employment and/or employment supports is consistent with your organisation's objectives in your governing documents.

The funding for this programme will amount to some €10 million over a three year period and is co-funded by the Irish Exchequer and the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning operational programme, 2014-2020 (PEIL, 2014 – 20). The programme will be delivered by national, regional and local organisations that have experience of working with people with a disability.

The aim of the Ability programme is to bring young people with disabilities who are not work-ready closer to the labour market. The programme will promote employment prospects and meaningful social roles for young people with disabilities and in particular, young people who are distant from the labour market using a range of person-centered supports.

Employability relates to the general skills a person needs to enter, stay in and progress in the world of work. The term 'employability' recognises the importance of an individual's skills, competencies and experience when they are looking for work.

The Ability Programme will promote employment prospects and meaningful social roles for young people with disabilities and particularly, for young people who are distant from the labour market.

The Ability Programme will support projects that demonstrate person centered approaches. This type of work assists young people to identify and follow progression routes based on both their potential and their needs.

Objectives

- To assist young people with disabilities to develop the confidence and independence required to participate in education, training, employment.
- To assist young people with disabilities at key transition points between education, training and employment.
- To support young people with disabilities who are not in education, employment or training to access and participate in education, training, employment.
- To build the capacity of mainstream employment services, education and training providers to support the progression of young people with disabilities.
- To build the capacity of employers to recruit and retain young people with disabilities within their workforce.

Eligibility

Who Can Apply?

- Community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations with a legal structure that support for people with disabilities as part of their organisation's objectives.
- Community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations with a legal structure that provide training, pre-employment and/or employment supports as part of their organisation's objectives.
- Non-Statutory Bodies funded under Sections 38 and 39 of The Health Act 2004.
- Employer networks with a legal structure.
- Networks of non-statutory bodies with a legal structure.

We will only accept one application from each individual applicant and each lead applicant. However, local and regional branches of the same organisation may apply for funding if they have their own governing documents. Partnership applications are welcome where there is evidence of a strategic and a 'joined-up' approach.

Each partnership application must nominate a 'lead applicant'. Other organisations that are officially involved in the planning or delivery of your project are 'project partners'.

The lead applicant will be the contract holder and will have responsibility for project management, financial reporting and project monitoring.

Statutory bodies and schools may participate as project partners in partnership applications.

Funding Levels

We are inviting applications for €200,000 to €750,000.

You may apply for funding for a minimum of two years and a maximum of three years.

Types of Activities

- Projects demonstrating a person centered planning approach where project workers and/or job coaches will support young people to identify pathways for progression to education, training and/or employment. (Project workers or job coaches may also support young people to access mainstream education, training and employment services. They may also co-ordinate the delivery of tailored initiatives.)
- Specialised vocational assessments to assist young people in identifying their work capabilities and support needs.
Tailored training and/or youth work approaches promoting the development of the soft skills, confidence and independence required to participate in education, training and employment.
- Tailored transition programmes that enable students to progress to further/higher level education, training and/or employment.
- Outreach, information and advice, mentoring, pre-employment supports that empower young people with disabilities to access and participate in education, training and/or the labour market.
- Work preparation initiatives for young people with disabilities.
- Capacity building programmes for mainstream employment services and education and training providers.
- Capacity building programmes for employers.

How to Apply

Organisations can apply for funding using Pobal's online application form. Our online application form will be available from 4th December 2017. The closing date for applications is 12pm on Wednesday 31st January 2018. Access full guidelines and application details on the website <https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/AbilityProgramme>.

Explanation of deadline	Reason	Date
<u>Deadline for online applications @ 12 noon</u>	Closing (temporarily)	31 Jan 2018

Contact Details

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Associated Topics: Dependants & Carers, Disability, Social Inclusion, Young People (13-25)