

Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage Fund (MAEDF) Guidelines 2021 GRETB

Purpose

- The purpose of the Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage Fund (MAEDF) is to assist to increase the capacity of **community education providers** to address the decline in participation of disadvantaged adult learners particularly those on literacy and basic skills programmes at NFQ levels 1 to 3.
- There is a focus on enabling the investment in building the **digital infrastructure** of providers and their capability to ensure that online learning can be delivered in a way that meets the complex needs of learners.

Expenditure:

Approved funding allocation for any activity under the MAEDF must;

- a. Be used for specific purpose intended.
- b. Be expended by 31st December 2021. ***Please note any equipment/software purchased must be in the possession of the Grantee before 31st December 2021 in order to drawdown the grant.**
- c. Not be used for any pay costs or costs of a recurring nature
- d. Only expenditure incurred after the notification of a successful grant application can be considered. Retrospective funding is not possible under this fund.
- e. Successful Grant applications are paid on a vouched expenditure basis*
*(*Groups must spend the allocation and claim it back from GRETB once spent on the approved item(s))*

Please Note: capital threshold is based on the cost of any item in excess of €1,000 including VAT. Capital items cannot be funded through this grant.

1) Digital Technologies

Supply of devices where deemed to be a barrier to learning. Consideration to be given to:

- The use of a laptop loan scheme (similar to that used by the GRETB).
- A managed device service to ensure IT supports are available to providers to maximise the mitigation of barriers and ICT resourcing at local level.
- Secure relevant software and systems to facilitate high quality learning and delivery.
- Secure CPD training as required.

2) Learner Assistance Fund

The Learner Assistance Fund is available to help where appropriate with costs such as:

- Books and class materials
- Essential travel
- Food Allowance
- Childcare Costs

The above list is not exhaustive however, it is important that the nature and appropriateness of the expenditure for which assistance is being provided is clearly identified.

Please note, if a learner is in receipt of funding from another source for any of the above they will not be eligible for funding under this scheme.

3) Out-reach and/or Mentoring

Re-engagement with Learners through Outreach, Engagement and Mentoring Fund is designed to assist with costs associated with activities such as:

- Awareness raising -Leaflets, social media adverts, radio/newspaper adverts
- Services to promote re-engagement

The above list is not exhaustive however, it is important that the nature and appropriateness of the expenditure for which assistance is being provided is clearly identified.

4) COVID-19 Recovery Exceptional Circumstances

COVID-19 Recovery Exceptional Circumstances Fund for Community Education to address educationally disadvantaged learners.

Beneficiaries:

The beneficiaries of any funding allocated needs to be recorded on the PLSS system. (PLSS is the ETB learner record system). If beneficiaries are not currently recorded on this system, the successful grantee group will be required to gather details of beneficiaries in order to register them on the system.

Application and Approval:

- Complete the application form in full and return to Sandra.conneely@gretb.ie by Monday 13th September at 12pm. **Please include quotes for any expenditure detailed in the application.**
- GRETB will assess the applications and make recommendations to SOLAS in order of priority. SOLAS will then allocate funding following their assessment procedure.
- To ensure a fair disbursement of funding the prioritisation will be used by SOLAS where funding requests exceed the funds available.

Quotations and Procurement Requirements:

Given the short timeframe it would be useful if you had quotes in advance of submitting the application in order to ensure that a full spend can happen if your application is successful.

The following procurement requirements will apply:

- under €5000 - one written quote,
- €5,001 - €15,000 - three written quotes
- €15,001 - €25,000 - five written quotes.