



Skills & Opportunities Programme

This programme is made up of a number of funds managed on behalf of the donors by County Durham Community Foundation (the Foundation). The Programme provides grants to help unemployed individuals living in County Durham and Darlington to carry out accredited training.

What type of funding can you apply for?

- Educational or tuition costs
- Study aids etc. tablet, voice recognition software
- Books
- Training courses, personal development i.e. vulnerable people becoming 'interview ready'
- Necessary equipment for courses
- Assistance in expenses to help people into work including clothes for interview, travel expenses etc.

This programme will not support driving lessons, unless the individual has a guaranteed job offer for which they will need a licence, e.g. a mechanic or if they are training in mechanical engineering.

Please note that higher education (tertiary) student fees and bursaries are ineligible.

Who can apply?

Applications are invited from support, health, or social workers or other professionals working in related fields, who provide support to clients wishing to access education, training, or employment.

This programme is not expected to fund individuals already receiving significant financial and other support from schemes focussing on working with employers and individuals.

Size of grant

Grants of up to £1,000 will be considered. Due to the limited funds available each year, applications that demonstrate a particular need due to the personal circumstances of the individual (e.g. hardship) will be given priority.

In all cases, the items requested must be essential with no statutory or third-party obligation to provide. For example, a grant will not be awarded towards a work uniform if it is the responsibility of the employer to provide it.

What the fund will not consider:

- Contribution towards course fees where the course fee is in excess of £1,000
- Higher education fees



- Items which are the responsibility of an employer or third party to provide
- Any item/activity where there is a statutory obligation to provide
- Gap year activities unless there is a well demonstrated educational element
- Any individual need where the need for funding is not well demonstrated
- IT equipment except in exceptional circumstances

When to apply

Applications can be submitted at any time. There are no closing dates for applications. We aim to inform you of our decision within 6 weeks from the receipt of a fully complete and eligible application.

Our website will contain details if the fund has been fully awarded for a particular year and therefore no more applications can be accepted.

Can you apply to other funds?

Applying to the Skills and Opportunities Programme does not restrict you from applying to other Foundation funds or programmes

To apply for a grant, you must use our online application form which can be found by visiting www.cdcf.org.uk

Need more help?

Please contact the Foundation if you need to discuss your project before submitting an application.

E-mail: info@cdcfc.org.uk

Web: www.cdcfc.org.uk