

Transition Policy TF01: Eligibility Criteria

Version: 3.0

Created: 14 December 2017

Last Amended: 29 March 2021

Next Review: 31 March 2022

1. Background

The ILF Scotland Transition Fund is a discretionary fund designed to promote participation and inclusion for young disabled people. It is based on the principles of prevention and early intervention, and, therefore, has a particular focus on those who receive little or no support from social work services. There is no entitlement to funding from the ILF Scotland Transition Fund. ILF Scotland will award Transition Fund grants based on the professional judgement of ILF Scotland staff, affordability, and the compatibility of applications with the overall aims of the Fund. ILF Scotland aims to be open, fair and transparent in all decisions about the allocation of funding. The eligibility and evaluation criteria below outlines how ILF Scotland will make decisions.

2. Stage 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible to apply to the ILF Transition Fund, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Applicants must be aged between 16 and 25. Applicants can apply to the Transition Fund from the age of 15, however, ILF Scotland will only award

funding when the applicant reaches 16 years of age. ILF Scotland must receive applications before the applicant's 26th birthday.

2. Applicants must be lawfully resident and present in Scotland. Please see Policy TF03, Residence and Presence, for further details.

3. Applicants must be able to provide evidence of disability or impairment in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Evidence of disability will, for the purpose of this application, consist of any of the following:

- a. Applicant is in receipt of any rate of any component of Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payment / Adult disability Payment / Child Disability Payment.

OR

- b. A suitable professional endorses the application, confirming the young person's disability or impairment. This can be a:

- Qualified and professionally registered teacher or lecturer
- Professionally registered Health Professional employed in the Scottish Public Sector
- Professionally registered Social Worker or Occupational Therapist employed in the Scottish Public Sector
- Voluntary sector organisation registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

- Careers Advisor employed by Skills Development Scotland

The endorsing professional must know the young person well enough to comment on how their current impairment affects them and be involved in a professional capacity with the applicant, normally within the last two years.

Applicants must not have access to capital in excess of £28,500.

Applicants who meet the above criteria are eligible to apply to the ILF Scotland Transition Fund.

3. Stage 2 – Evaluation

ILF Scotland will evaluate each eligible application to the ILF Transition Fund in relation to the eight criteria outlined below.

To be successful, submitted applications must meet each of the eight evaluation criteria. ILF Scotland will seek to provide grants to those applicants who provide clear evidence of a costed plan that is likely to achieve the outcomes or goals identified by the young person. ILF Scotland will give priority to outcomes or goals likely to have a strong, positive benefit on the young person's life and their presence or participation in their community. ILF Scotland will evaluate applications on both the impact of the grant and the ability of the plan to achieve it. We will provide an explanation to those applicants whose application has been unsuccessful.

4. Evaluation criteria

1. Applicants must normally be in receipt of little or no formal support from Social Work Services under options 1-4 of the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. ILF Scotland will evaluate available supports, and we will prioritise applications from young disabled people who do not receive support from Social Work Services to assist them towards meeting the outcomes identified in their application.
2. Applicants to the Transition Fund must identify an outcome or goal. See accompanying ILF Transition Fund Glossary of Terms on what ILF Scotland means by outcome and goal.
3. The outcome or goal must clearly and directly link to promoting the young person's opportunity to participate, be present, and be included in their community.
4. The young person must clearly outline the benefit they anticipate the grant will make.
5. The application should detail the costs needed to deliver the goal or outcome and it should evidence value for money.
6. The application should clearly state how the applicant would maintain the benefit from the grant beyond the end of the grant period.

7. The items / activities applied for in the application should not create any circumstances that may cause physical, emotional, financial or material harm or loss.
8. ILF Scotland may ask for evidence that no other agencies or sources of funding will support this request. This is because the Transition Fund will not fund services that another public body should provide.

5. Support to submit an application

If you need support to complete your application, you can ask for this from a professional, family member, or friend who knows you well. If you do not have support from these sources, we will try putting you in touch with a source of help. We will give you advice on whether you are eligible for the Transition Fund. Throughout the application process, ILF Scotland will take into consideration requirements in relation to issues such as accessibility, language and communication.

ILF Scotland staff can offer informal support to facilitate the submission of an application, but the applicant should lead the application. We can provide guidance and advice but ultimately the application should clearly represent the needs and wishes of the applicant.

ILF Scotland can fund formal support for an application through offering a Person Centred Planning Grant. (Please see Policy TF02.)

6. Following submission

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ILF Scotland will screen all applications for eligibility and will then evaluate the applications against the evaluation criteria. ILF Scotland will ask for any additional information needed to allow full evaluation. On satisfactory receipt of all necessary information, ILF Scotland aims to process applications using the evaluation framework outlined in Appendix 1.

7. Re-applications

1. Successful Applicants

a. Successful applicants may re-apply to the ILF Transition Fund at the end of their grant period – normally one year from grant award. However, depending on demand, first time applicants may receive greater priority.

2. Unsuccessful Applicants

a. ILF Scotland will inform unsuccessful applicants why their application was unsuccessful, and will advise applicants how to request a review of that decision. (Please see policy TF11.) Applicants can also submit a formal complaint to ILF Scotland about its decision not to grant funding. (Please see the ILF Scotland Complaints Procedure.)

b. Unsuccessful applicants who continue to meet the eligibility criteria may re-apply. ILF Scotland may, with the applicant's permission, retain relevant information relating to the eligibility criteria for a defined period pending reapplication. (Please see Policy TF13 Data Protection.)