

A guide to funding for CPCAB centres

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3 Introduction

4 Funding for Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications

Accessing Funding in Devolved Areas

England's Devolved Authorities and How to Access Funding

9 Key Steps for Learning Providers to Access Funding

contents

10 Funding for Level 4 and above qualifications

Accessing Advanced Learner Loans (ALLs) and Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) Funding

14 Key Steps for Learning Providers to Access Both Funding Streams

15 Additional Needs Funding

Accessing Additional Needs Funding for Learners with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities (LLDD)

19 Local and Charitable Grants for Learners with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities (LLDD)

20 Charitable & Trust-Based Grants

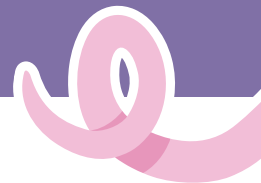
21 Disability-Specific & Regional Charitable Grants

22 Next Steps for Training Providers

As an Awarding Organisation we recognise the importance of funding in supporting learners and have collated this useful guide outlining the key funding opportunities that our centres may be eligible to access.

While we are providing guidance we are unable to access funding on behalf of centres or take responsibility for their application process or eligibility. It is the responsibility of each centre to liaise directly with the relevant funding bodies, local authorities, or government agencies to ensure they meet eligibility criteria and comply with application processes.

One key element to note is that in order to access government funding you will need to be registered with UKRLP and have a UKPRN assigned. You can do this on the [UK Register of Learning Providers](#) website.



Funding for Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications

The AEB (Adult Education Budget)/Adult Skills Fund devolved budgets are particularly suitable for centres wishing to explore funding opportunities for Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications. These funding streams provide valuable support for learners seeking to develop their skills at these levels.

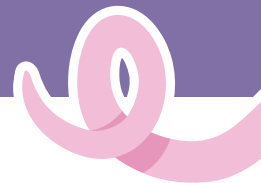
Accessing Funding in Devolved Areas

Since the Adult Education Budget (AEB)/Adult Skills Fund have been devolved to local authorities in England, providers must apply through their respective Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) or local government bodies rather than through the Department for Education (DfE).

England's Devolved Authorities and How to Access Funding

Greater London Authority (GLA)

- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of London
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Register on **GLA Open Project System (OPS)**.
 2. Submit proposals during **AEB funding rounds**.
 3. Align training to GLA priorities (e.g., digital skills, green jobs).
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)



Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)

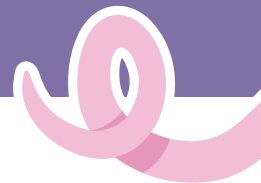
- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of Greater Manchester
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Register via GMCA procurement portal.
 2. Submit tenders when funding opportunities open.
 3. Ensure courses match Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs).
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of the West Midlands
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Register via **WMCA procurement portal**.
 2. Submit applications based on **WMCA's regional workforce needs**.
 3. Compliance with quality & data reporting requirements is essential.
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA)

- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of the Liverpool City Region
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Apply through **The Chest procurement portal**.
 2. Prioritise training in **growth sectors** (e.g., construction, digital, health).
 3. Attend LCRCA's provider engagement sessions.
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)



West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA)

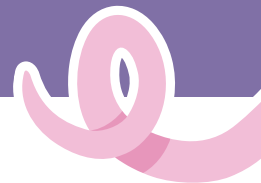
- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of West Yorkshire
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Register on WYCA's **Procurement System**.
 2. Submit bids aligned with **West Yorkshire's skills priorities**.
 3. Monitor **tender opportunities on YORTender**.
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA)

- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of South Yorkshire
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Register for **AEB procurement calls** via the SYMCA website.
 2. Engage with **Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)** to align training.
 3. Submit bids that address regional skills gaps.
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)

Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA)

- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of Tees Valley
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Register via **NEPO (North East Procurement Organisation)**.
 2. Submit tenders for **Tees Valley AEB funding**.
 3. Prioritise skills for industries like **engineering, renewables, and logistics**.
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)



North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA)

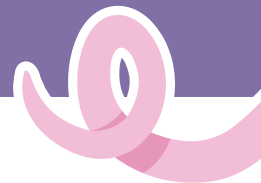
- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of North of Tyne
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Apply through **NEPO portal**.
 2. Propose training that supports **regional skills gaps**.
 3. Ensure alignment with **North East Local Skills Plan**.
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Register as a provider on CPCA's **AEB framework**.
 2. Submit proposals in line with **economic priority sectors**.
 3. Engage in CPCA **training provider workshops**.
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)

North East Combined Authority (NECA)

- **Funding Managed By:** Local Authority Consortium
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Register on **NEPO** procurement platform.
 2. Apply for **skills contracts** as released by NECA.
 3. Deliver training aligned to North East's **strategic economic plan**.
- **More Info:** [AEB/ASF Funding](#)



East Midlands Combined Authority (EMCA) (Newly Established)

- **Funding Managed By:** Mayor of the East Midlands
- **How to Apply:**
 1. EMCA is expected to announce procurement processes in **2025**.
 2. Monitor **EMCA's website and East Midlands procurement portals**.
 3. Align courses with East Midlands **Growth Strategy**.
- **More Info:** [EMCA Website \(Coming Soon\)](#)

Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority (GLCA) (Upcoming – 2025)

- **Funding Managed By:** New Mayor from May 2025.
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Await **official procurement announcements** after elections.
 2. Monitor **Greater Lincolnshire LEP** for early opportunities.
- **More Info:** [GLCA Information](#)

Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) (Upcoming – 2025)

- **Funding Managed By:** New Mayor from May 2025.
- **How to Apply:**
 1. Follow **HEYCA website for updates** on procurement.
 2. Expect funding to align with **maritime, manufacturing, and renewables**.
- **More Info:** [HEYCA Updates](#)

Key Steps for Learning Providers to Access Funding

- **Register on the correct procurement portal** (e.g., NEPO, ProContract, The Chest).
- **Monitor funding calls** on MCA websites.
- **Ensure alignment** with Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs).
- **Engage with MCA-led skills forums** to build partnerships.
- **Meet compliance and data requirements** for funding contracts.





Funding for Level 4 and above qualifications

For centres interested in offering qualifications at **Level 4 and above**, it is recommended to explore **Advanced Learner Loans (ALLs)** or the upcoming **Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)**, which will offer funding options for higher-level qualifications. Each funding stream has specific eligibility criteria and application processes, so we advise centres to carefully assess the most appropriate route for their learners.

Accessing Advanced Learner Loans (ALLs) and Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) Funding

Advanced Learner Loans (ALLs)

Overview

Advanced Learner Loans (ALLs) provide government-backed loans to learners aged **19 and over** to cover tuition fees for **Level 3 to Level 6** courses. These loans are managed by the **Student Loans Company (SLC)** and administered via the **Department for Education (DfE)**.

Who Can Apply for ALL Funding?

To **offer courses funded by Advanced Learner Loans**, providers must:

- Be **approved** and **listed on the ALL Provider List**.
- Have a **funding agreement** with the **DfE**.
- Deliver eligible **Level 3, 4, 5, or 6 qualifications** regulated by Ofqual.



How to Access ALL Funding

To access an Advanced Learner Loans facility, you must first be approved on the [UK Register of Learning Providers \(UKRLP\)](#).

Once you have UKRLP approval, you then need to get an Advanced Learner Loans facility agreement with the Department for Education (DfE).

DfE only issues these agreements after a formal selection process. They use their weekly [Update newsletter](#) to advertise opportunities for new providers. We recommend you subscribe to these to receive this information directly.

There is more information on [GOV.UK](#). If you have any further questions, you can email DfE at: advancedlearner.loans@education.gov.uk.



Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)

Overview

The **Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)** replaces Advanced Learner Loans from **2026** and expands funding for learners by:

- Allowing individuals to access **up to £38,140** in tuition funding over their lifetime.
- Funding **modular, flexible study** (short courses, higher technical qualifications, and degrees).
- Supporting **learners from Level 4 to Level 6** across various routes.

Who Can Apply for LLE Funding?

To deliver LLE-funded courses, providers must:

- Be **registered with the Office for Students (OfS)**
- Offer **regulated courses from Level 4 to Level 6** (including degree modules).
- Meet **OfS quality assurance standards**.

How to Access LLE Funding

Register as an Approved Provider

- The OfS will regulate all providers offering LLE-funded provision. This means that any provider wanting to offer courses funded by the LLE will need to register with them.
- Providers applying to register with the OfS can currently register in one of two categories. The government has announced that the LLE will now launch in September 2026. Learners will be able to apply for LLE funding in September 2026 for courses and modules starting from January 2027 onwards.



The Department for Education has **announced its decision to extend Advanced Learner Loans until 2027** and the delay to the launch of the LLE until September 2026.

- Please note that there is a temporary pause on new applications for OfS registration. The Office for Students (OfS) is temporarily refocusing its resources to support its work in response to the financial challenges affecting higher education providers in England. This is to ensure students' interests are protected. This will mean temporary changes to our assessment of applications from providers.

More Info: [LLE Funding Guidance](#)

Key Differences Between ALL and LLE

Feature	Advanced Learner Loans (ALLs)	Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)
Launch Year	Existing (since 2013)	2025 (phased rollout)
Qualification Levels	Level 3 to Level 6	Level 4 to Level 6
Funding Structure	Loan covers full course fees	Loan can cover modules or full courses
Who Manages It?	DfE & Student Loans Company (SLC)	Office for Students (OfS) & SLC
Flexibility	Fixed course funding	Modular & short-course funding available
Max Loan Available	Covers tuition fees	Up to £38,140 per learner
Eligibility	Learners aged 19+	Learners aged over 18, no upper age limit

Key Steps for Learning Providers to Access Both Funding Streams

- **Check eligibility** (ALL = DfE approval, LLE = OfS registration).
- **Register for funding via DfE or OfS.**
- **Ensure courses are approved** for loan funding.
- **Monitor funding windows** for application opportunities.
- **Support learners** with loan applications via the **Student Loans Company (SLC)**.
- **Comply with quality, audit, and reporting requirements.**





Additional Needs Funding

Accessing Additional Needs Funding for Learners with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities (LLDD)

Providers can access funding to **support learners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LLDD)** through multiple routes, including **Department for Education (DfE) funding, local authority support, and specific grants**. Below is a breakdown of how Independent Learning Providers (ILPs) can secure this funding.

Additional Learning Support (ALS) – DfE Funded

Overview

Additional Learning Support (ALS) provides funding for learners **with learning difficulties and disabilities (LLDD)** who need extra help to access education. This funding applies to **16–19 and 19+ learners** in FE, apprenticeships, and adult education.

Who Can Apply?

- **Independent Learning Providers (ILPs), FE colleges, and other training providers** delivering **DfE-funded courses**.
- Learners must have an identified **learning difficulty, disability, or health condition** affecting their education.



How to Access ALS Funding

Step 1 Identify Learner Needs

- Conduct an **initial assessment** (e.g., literacy, numeracy, support needs).
- Identify specific needs such as **dyslexia, autism, ADHD, sensory impairments, mental health difficulties, or physical disabilities**.

Step 2 Claim ALS Funding for Costs Under £19,000

Providers can **claim up to £19,000 per learner per year** through **DfE funding streams**, including:

- ✓ **16–19 Study Programmes** (funded by the DfE).
- ✓ **Adult Education Budget (AEB)/Adult Skills Fund** for **19+ learners**.
- ✓ **Advanced Learner Loans (ALLs) with Additional Learning Support**.
- ✓ **Apprenticeship ALS funding** (for additional support needs in work-based learning).
- ALS funding is claimed **monthly via the Individualised Learner Record (ILR)**.
- Must be **proportionate to the support costs incurred** (e.g., **1:1 support, specialist equipment, assistive technology**).

Step 3 Apply for High Needs Funding (HNF) for Costs Over £19,000

If a learner requires **support costing more than £19,000 per year**, providers must:

1. **Apply for High Needs Funding (HNF) via the Local Authority.**
2. Ensure the learner has an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.
3. Negotiate a **top-up funding agreement** with the Local Authority.

More Info: [High Needs Funding](#)



High Needs Funding (HNF) – Local Authority Funded

Overview

Learners **with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** may qualify for **High Needs Funding (HNF)**, provided directly by **local authorities**.

Who Can Apply?

- **ILPs, colleges, and training providers** delivering courses to learners with EHCPs.
- The learner must have **needs beyond what standard ALS covers (£19,000+ per year)**.

How to Access High Needs Funding (HNF)

Step 1 Secure an EHCP for the Learner

- Work with **local authorities, schools, and parents** to ensure learners who need high-cost support have an **EHCP assessment**.
- The EHCP identifies **educational, health, and care needs** and the funding required to meet them.

Step 2 Apply for Local Authority Funding

- Each local authority has **different funding processes** – providers should **contact their local SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) team** to apply.
- Submit a **funding request** detailing:
 - ✓ Learner's EHCP and additional needs.
 - ✓ The specific support required (e.g., **specialist staff, equipment, therapies**).
 - ✓ Cost breakdown and justification.



Step 3 Funding Approval & Monitoring

- If approved, the local authority will **pay top-up funding** to the provider.
- Providers must **track progress** and report on **outcomes, attendance, and support effectiveness**.

More Info: [EHCP & High Needs Funding](#)

Additional Support in Adult Education Budget (AEB)

Overview

For learners **aged 19+**, the **Adult Education Budget (AEB)/Adult Skills Fund** provides funding for additional support needs.

Who Can Apply?

- ILPs and FE providers delivering **DfE-funded AEB provision**.
- Learners with **mild to moderate learning difficulties, disabilities, or mental health conditions**.

How to Access AEB Additional Support

- Step 1 Assess learner needs** (screening, diagnostic assessments).
- Step 2 Submit claims for ALS via the ILR** under AEB.
- Step 3 Provide evidence of additional support costs** (staffing, equipment, specialist tuition).
- Step 4 Ensure compliance with DfE reporting requirements**.

More Info: [AEB/ASF Funding Rules](#)



Local and Charitable Grants for Learners with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities (LLDD)

In addition to government-funded support, **local authorities, charities, and trusts** offer grants for learners with additional needs. These grants can help cover **specialist equipment, assistive technology, personal support, and educational costs** that standard funding does not fully cover.

Local Authority Grants & Discretionary Support

Overview

Local authorities have **discretionary funds** available to support learners with disabilities, particularly those with an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.

How to Access Local Authority Funding

- Step 1** **Check local SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) services** – Each council has different funding schemes.
- Step 2** **Contact the Local Authority SEND Team** – They provide advice on discretionary grants.
- Step 3** **Apply through the council's education or social care department** – Some funding may come through local education bursaries or social care budgets.
- Step 4** **Request direct payments or personal budgets** – Learners with EHCPs may receive **personalised funding for additional support needs**.

Find your local authority SEND services: [Local Council Finder](#)



Charitable & Trust-Based Grants

Many charities and trusts provide **financial support for learners with disabilities**. These funds help cover additional educational costs, equipment, specialist tuition, and more.

National Charities Supporting LLDD Learners

Charity/Trust	Who Can Apply?	What's Funded?	Website
Snowdon Trust	Students with physical or sensory disabilities	Grants for assistive technology, course-related costs, and additional support	Snowdon Trust
The Prince's Trust	Young people (16–30) with barriers to education	Training, equipment, and support for learners facing challenges	Prince's Trust
Turn2Us Educational Grants	People facing financial hardship	Grants for education, disability needs, and living costs	Turn2Us
Family Fund	Families with disabled children & young adults (17–24)	Specialist equipment, educational support, and personal care needs	Family Fund
Birkdale Trust for Hearing Impaired	Learners with hearing impairments	Assistive technology, specialist learning support, and education costs	Birkdale Trust
Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)	Learners with visual impairments	Education support, assistive tech, mobility training	RNIB
ACT Foundation	Learners with disabilities from low-income backgrounds	Mobility aids, assistive learning tools, and adaptations	ACT Foundation



Disability-Specific & Regional Charitable Grants

Some grants **target specific disabilities or geographic areas.**

Disability-Focused Grants

- **The Adamson Trust** – Funding for **children & young adults with disabilities** to access educational support.
- **The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund** – Supports learners with **autism & learning disabilities.**
- **The Florence Nightingale Aid in Sickness Trust** – Provides funding for disabled students needing **medical equipment or educational tools.**

Regional Grants (England, Scotland, Wales, NI)

- **Scottish Government Disabled Students Allowance (DSA Scotland)** – Extra **higher education support** for Scottish learners.
- **Welsh Disabled Student Grants** – Provides **bursaries for disabled students in Wales.**
- **London Learner Support Fund** – Discretionary grants for low-income **disabled learners** in London.

Search for Local & Regional Grants: [**Disability Grants UK**](#)



Next Steps for Training Providers

- **Check Local Authority SEND funding availability.**
- **Support learners in applying for relevant charitable grants.**
- **Provide evidence of additional support needs when applying.**
- **Help apprentices access 'Access to Work' support.**

Funding information included in this guide is subject to change due to evolving government policies and sector developments. While we strive to ensure this document remains as accurate and up to date as possible, we recognise that changes may occur.

If you become aware of any information in this guide that is no longer current, please notify us so we can make the necessary updates.

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Counselling qualifications that change lives