

YOUNG COMPANY CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANT SCHEME

Highlands and Islands Enterprise

WHAT DOES THE FUND DELIVER TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS?

The scheme provides grant funding of up to 50% of the costs (up to £50k) for capital equipment for start-up or young companies/social enterprises (less than five years old). In very exceptional circumstances a higher intervention level may be considered.

WHY IS HIE SETTING UP THIS FUND?

Due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, we are seeing increasing levels of unemployment in the Highlands and Islands and this support scheme offers the opportunity to pump prime investment in individuals who are aiming to move into self-employment as well as helping to support growth and resilience in young companies.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Only SME's with a UK registered address and evidence of economic activity in the Highlands and Islands region can apply.
- Unincorporated forms of business ownership (e.g. sole trader, partnership, limited partnership) as well as incorporated legal forms of business ownership (limited companies, companies limited by guarantee, community interest companies, limited liability partnership etc.) are eligible to apply.
- The applicant must be a start-up business; or young businesses/social enterprise less than five years old.

WHAT IS NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Applications for equipment that has already been ordered or purchased and/or capital works underway are not eligible
- Applicants from most sectors can apply but applications from the retail and personal services sector (e.g. hairdressers, beauticians, alternative therapist etc.) are not eligible.

WHAT CAN THE FUNDING BE USED FOR?

Any type of capital equipment e.g. physical adaptations to workplaces in response to the COVID-19 emergency and/or equipment to enable staff to work from home; manufacturing equipment including automation and robotics; office equipment and furnishings; tools and machining equipment etc.

WHAT CAN'T THE FUNDING BE USED FOR?

- Any type of motor vehicle or trailer (including mobile homes and caravans).
- Construction or upgrade to buildings (unless directly linked to the installation of manufacturing equipment or physical adaptations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Construction, upgrade or modification of domestic premises (i.e. premises in which the applicant lives in or rents out as long term lets). This includes furnishings and equipment in Bed and Breakfast or AirBnB type properties in which the applicant resides.



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO APPLY?

For start-ups only:

- A full three-year business plan will be required, and Business Gateway can advise you on how to put this together.
Visit bgateway.com to find your local office.

For all applicants

- An overview of the products and/or services that your business provides, how many people you employ, the impact you have in your local community.
- An outline proposal of the capital equipment you wish to purchase, costs, the purpose for which it will be used and the benefits it will bring (e.g. business growth, job retention or creation, producing goods or services that will help you access new markets or adapt to new market conditions, resilience, improved working conditions).
- Latest set of audited accounts (where available) and set of management accounts up to one month before application date*.
- Three year cashflow projections demonstrating the impact of the proposed investment.
- Evidence of how you will fund the other half of the investment.
- We will require two quotes for individual items of capital equipment with a value of £25k or over. We will require one quote for items less than £25k.

* Not required by start-up applicants

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applicants who wish to apply should email enquiries@hient.co.uk for further information and an application pack.

Once you have completed your application, please email it to

enquiries@hient.co.uk

The deadline for applications to be submitted is **12 noon on 23 October 2020.**

This scheme is NOT operating on a first come first served basis - applications will only be assessed by HIE staff after the application deadline date.

You should hear about the outcome of your application by mid November 2020.

If you would like to talk to someone about the application please email enquiries@hient.co.uk and we will get an officer to speak to you.

THIS IS IMPORTANT - THE SMALL PRINT

- Grant awards are subject to due diligence and budget availability. Due diligence includes making an assessment on the need for public funding, the viability of the business going forward, the ability of the applicant to deliver the project and the strength of the business case presented to HIE. Support will be prioritised for applications which help to create or retain jobs that pay at least the Real Living Wage (currently £9.30 an hour)
- Making an application to the scheme does not guarantee that your application will be successful. If you are not successful in your application or you are only partially successful (i.e. you receive funding of a lesser amount) then we will arrange a call with you to let you know why you have been unsuccessful and point you in the direction of other possible sources of funding.
- There is no appeals process and we are unable to consider a complaint purely relating to dissatisfaction as to the outcome of a funding decision. However, if you have identified a specific process failure relating to your application, then you may wish to make a formal complaint and details can be provided to you on HIE's formal complaints process.
- For applicants that are successful in being awarded a grant, claims must be made by the end of February 2021.