

Digital Inclusion Programme: Guidance for Community Learning & Development (CLD) Organisations

The Digital Inclusion Programme is a Scottish Government capital fund that aims to reduce digital poverty. The programme is delivered by YouthLink Scotland in partnership with Lead Scotland and WEA. The aim is to provide community-based young adult learners with the resources they need to engage in online learning.

The Programme provides iPads, Chromebooks and adaptive/assistive technology to community-based young adult learners who are:

- 16 to 30 years of age (*If the community based learner experiences multiple barriers to participation some discretion may be applied to the age range.*)
- digitally excluded – do not have an appropriate device and/or are not connected to the internet at home
- on low incomes so cannot afford to buy a device or pay for internet access
- not in full-time education, employment or training
- at risk of isolation or further exclusion due to coronavirus
- linked with an organisation for support to learn

Getting online will help them access the services and support they need to engage in online learning opportunities and stay connected with families and communities

How it works

To reach these young adult learners, YouthLink Scotland, Lead Scotland and WEA will work through their networks of public and third sector CLD organisations who are already working with directly with them.

Support will be provided to these organisations that includes:

- kit – accessible internet enabled devices
- connectivity – through mobile data
- access to training and support – for staff and volunteers to become ‘digital champions’ to support people to use the internet confidently and safely.

Who can apply?

If you are a public or third sector CLD organisation that works with eligible community-based young adult learners in Scotland, you can apply for devices.

Individuals and private sector organisations cannot apply.

How to apply

You should apply using the **online application**. A template version in word is available to help you prepare your answers.

You will be asked to submit a list of young adult learners you want to support as part of your application. You will also need to:

- show how you'll identify and choose young adult learners to support
- outline what their digital inclusion needs are
- commit staff or volunteers to digital champions training
- commit to being able to support the young person to engage in online learning

Applying for adaptive/assistive technology – please let us know the exact specifications of the equipment you require (e.g. what type of screen magnifier). If the adaptive/assistive devices you require are not compatible with either an iPad or Google Chromebook, please use the “other” box to tell us what kind of device you require.

Please be aware that we have a limited supply of equipment and we therefore ask you to prioritise your request towards the young adult learners most in need of this support.

The closing date for applications is the 25th of September

Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed by YouthLink Scotland, Lead Scotland and WEA. The aim is to allocate devices to where they are likely to have the biggest impact, across Scotland.

The guidance recommends making awards to CLD organisations based on evidence that they meet the following criteria:

- they have previous experience of supporting the young adult learners identified to access learning
- how closely the needs of the young adult learners they support fit the programme's priorities
- how much capacity they have to support the ongoing learning opportunities for young adult learners
- experience of enabling young disabled people to choose appropriate adaptive/assistive technology which meets their needs
- confidence and experience to support young adult learners to access online learning
- their capacity to capture data and learning
- how much capacity they have to distribute resources and provide person centred support

The criteria are not weighted, but priority will be given to applications where organisations have existing regular contact with the young people we are trying to reach, and capacity to support the programme objectives.

What you'll need to do if your application is successful

If your application is successful, your organisation will have to sign a YouthLink Scotland grant agreement.

The agreement covers:

- the devices you've applied for
- your expected commitment to the programme
- YouthLink Scotland's responsibilities

It also covers general grant conditions. This covers things like:

- an agreement to comply with data protection regulations
- health and safety considerations
- protection of vulnerable groups
- other legislation that's relevant to your organisation
- sharing monitoring and evaluation data with YouthLink Scotland

Monitoring and evaluation data will be shared the Scottish Government, over the following 12 months.

Devices

You can apply for iPads, Chromebooks and/or Assistive Technology. You need to decide which type of device is most suitable for your service users.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will meet the cost of sending out the iPads, Chromebooks and Adaptive/Assistive Technology?

YouthLink Scotland will arrange distribution to successful teams or organisations. Then the teams and organisations will be responsible for delivering them to the young adult learners they have identified as needing them.

Who owns the device?

Once a device is given to a young person, they will own it.

You will need to ask them to agree to terms and conditions as part of accepting the device. This will include sharing contact details and being involved in evaluation activities.

What mobile network is used for Mi-Fi devices?

Vodafone is currently the default supplier. There may be some flexibility for cases where Vodafone does not offer coverage.

What is the data allowance for the MiFi?

The current base allowance is 20GB per month.

What if someone has no mobile reception?

We are unlikely to be able to provide connectivity to people who live in areas with no mobile reception. However, exceptional cases may be considered, so please highlight in your application if this is a consideration.

Who pays for the data after 12 months?

People will be able to get free data for 12 months.

You do not have to commit to being able to support this for any longer than this. We will contact people towards the end of the 12 months to explain their options.

Questions?

Contact email addresses for

YouthLink Scotland: grants@youthlinkscotland.org

Lead Scotland: enquiries@lead.org.uk

WEA: SShahid@wea.org.uk