

# Talent Match (Fulfilling Lives: Supporting young people into work)

## Questions and answers

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### 1. Who can apply?

Talent Match is now closed to applications.

In June 2012 we invited 21 areas to apply to the Talent Match programme. These areas were chosen based on criteria including levels of youth unemployment. Areas were invited to develop a cross-sector partnership and submit a Vision and Prospectus for funding. In January 2013, the Talent Match committee decided which areas to invite to submit a detailed project plan for funding.

Those invited now have until June 2013 to develop a stage two project, which includes identifying delivery partners to carry out activities to bring about the Talent Match outcomes. The committee will decide on which projects to support in September 2013 and we expect successful partnerships to start their projects by January 2014. These are the areas we are funding:

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/talentmatch>

### 2. How much funding will each area get?

We made an initial indicative allocation to each target area based on a snapshot of youth unemployment figures at that time. We now expect partnerships to use their local knowledge to tell us where in their area the young people who are most in need are, and how best to help them. We require projects that are focussed and intensive, rather than broad and diluted in order to achieve a lasting impact in that area. The final amounts awarded will therefore be dependent on this intelligence. We do not guarantee that all areas will be funded, or will receive the amount we have initially allocated (final awards could be more as well as less). You can see the indicative and conditional allocations for each area on our website.

Each area invited to submit a stage two plan has been awarded up to £50,000 development funding to support the planning process.

### 3. How should funding be targeted within each area?

We expect projects to target young people aged 18-24 who have been 'NEET' (not in employment education or training) for 12 months or more. We expect projects to focus on those in this group who are out of work because they are experiencing particular barriers to employment, and we are particularly interested in those young people who are completely disengaged - the so-called 'hidden NEETS' - who are not claiming work related benefits and are less likely to be targeted by other existing provision.

We took expert advice to identify our target age group to ensure our funding is additional to statutory provision and is not spread too thinly. We are focusing on young people who are most in danger of becoming a being without the skills and experience to lead a successful and fulfilling life.

There are other initiatives available to support young people outside of our target groups, and partnerships should be prepared to signpost to these. In particular, initiatives such as the Work Programme, Work Choice and the 16-29 Bursary Scheme, or Supported internship programme for young people with special needs from the Department for Education may be able to provide support.

In developing stage two project plans, we expect partnerships to refine their target groups and show how they can reach those people most in need. Targeting should take into account factors such as:

- Where the most in need young people really are
- What the existing provision is to help them, and whether there are gaps in this, or whether additional support through Talent Match could improve opportunities for them
- What the barriers to helping these young people are
- What will actually help to overcome these barriers; and
- What it will cost to overcome them.

#### **4. How will this investment differ from statutory provision?**

BIG funding must be additional to statutory or Government funding.

Talent Match requires cross-sector partnerships led by voluntary sector organisations, emphasising the importance and value we think the voluntary sector will bring to this investment. The broad partnerships invited to submit stage two will use their local intelligence to make sure interventions and organisations are joined up across the charitable, private and statutory sectors, and also involve young people themselves in developing and delivering interventions.

It is essential that partnerships make links with other local providers to identify where there are gaps in current provision, or where an additional, complementary activity could improve the opportunities for someone who is taking part in a statutory scheme.

The Work Programme is a mandatory scheme for all young people who have been out of work for nine months and claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). By targeting Talent Match on young people in greatest need we expect projects to focus on the many young people who have been NEET for 12 months or more but are not claiming JSA, whether because they are on a different type of benefit, or because they are completely disengaged from the system. This may include young people facing particular barriers that require additional support over and above, but complementary, to what the Work Programme can offer. We believe that by providing additional investment in this way, our intervention will support, but be additional to, that of the Work Programme and other statutory provision in this field.