

Family Hubs Transformation Fund

Lucy Jessop - Family Hubs
Transformation and Delivery Lead,
Department for Education

Overview

- We have launched a **£12m Family Hubs Transformation Fund:**
 - Support at least 12 local authorities (LAs) in England that do not currently have family hubs, to transform to a family hub model of service delivery and open family hubs by March 2024.
 - Enable us to learn more about the process of local transformation, build our evidence base, and develop resources and learning to share with LAs.
- This session will cover:
 - Who can apply for funding
 - How much is available and what it will pay for
 - How LAs can apply
 - How LAs will be selected
 - The role of DfE-funded LAs
 - Key dates and deadlines

Background

- Government has committed to championing family hubs.
- Family hubs are a way of joining up locally to improve **access** to services, the **connections** between families, professionals, services, and providers, and putting **relationships** at the heart of family help.
- Family hubs bring together services for children of all ages, with a great Start for Life offer at their core.
- They can include hub buildings and virtual offers.
- How services are delivered varies from place to place, but the following principles are key to the family hub model:
 - More accessible
 - Better connected
 - Relationship-centred

Who can apply for funding

- The fund is open to the 151 upper tier LAs in England.
- We are seeking applications from LAs that:
 - do not currently have family hubs;
 - wish to transform to a family hub model of service delivery and open family hubs by March 2024;
 - currently provide the six core services for the conception to age 2 period that make up the Start for Life 'Universal Offer'.
- LAs should use the Family Hub Model Framework to assess where they are in their family hub transformation journey and suitability for the fund.

How much is available and what it will pay for

- The fund is worth c.£12m over the next two financial years.
- LAs can apply for up to £1 million, comprising of:
 - up to £833k for programme expenditure
 - up to £167k for capital expenditure
- The fund will pay for the change process only.
 - **Programme:** LA transformation team; local consultation; workforce development; development of a digital/data strategy; and communications to families.
 - **Capital:** adapting existing buildings; improving accessibility and to enable multi-agency working. This could include, for example, IT upgrades; new furniture to ensure suitability for older children; and new equipment such as sinks or specialist flooring for clinical use.

How LAs can apply

- LAs should complete and submit the application form by the 17th December 2021.
- One application form per LA can be submitted. Joint applications involving more than one LA will not be accepted.
- Refer to the information in the application form, application guide and family hub model framework throughout.
- Applications should be approved by the Director of Children's Services, Director of Public Health, Director of Adult Services and the Chair of the Local Health and Wellbeing Board (or equivalents).

How LAs will be selected

- Funding will be awarded through a competitive bid process.
- All eligible applications will be assessed and scored by a cross government panel against certain criteria and then the recommendations put to Ministers for review and approval.
- There is a three-stage assessment process:
 - Stage 1: Eligibility – pass or fail qualifying criteria
 - Stage 2: Assessment criteria (scored 0-4)
 - Stage 3: Strategic fit

The role of DfE-funded LAs

- Commit to open family hubs by March 2024, and lead and implement the transformation process locally.
- Publish their Start for Life offer and set out what will be available through their family hub network by March 2024.
- Work with DfE to understand local costs and expenditure required to deliver family hubs, and the services and specific service offers through family hubs.
- Share information with DfE on the LA's funding operations.
- Provide DfE with regular reporting around delivery, expenditure and risks.
- Engage with DfE, NCFH and other government departments to share information about service provision and support the development of guidance and resources on good practice.
- Engage with DfE's in-house analytical teams and external evaluation partner for monitoring and evaluation of the transformation process.

Key dates and deadlines

Milestones	Dates (subject to change)
Bid round opens	2 November 2021
Bid round closes	17 December 2021
Assessment of applications	January – February 2022
Decision announced	March 2022

Thank you for listening.

For further details please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-hubs-transformation-fund>