



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

TARGETED YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT INITIATIVE 2024

INFORMATION NOTE FOR APPLICANT ORGANISATIONS

The information contained in this document should be read in conjunction with the TYESI Guidance Document and TYESI Application Form.

Information for Applicant Organisations – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the TYESI?

The TYESI is an acronym which stands for **Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative**. The TYESI is intended to fund programmes, interventions and actions to support young people aged 15 - 24 years (inclusive) who are not in education, employment or training, by providing community-based interventions and support to improve their soft skills, confidence and agency to ensure engagement by young people in progression pathways. This cycle of the Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative will be delivered until 2027.

Who is eligible to apply?

The initiative is open to youth organisations that support young people to meet their identified needs. Applications may be made by individual organisations. Joint applications are permissible. Where a joint initiative is proposed, a lead organisation must be nominated as the responsible party for the application and all aspects of the Initiative.

What is the target group?

The target group for the TYESI is **young people between the ages of 15 and 24 (inclusive), who are not currently in employment, education, or training**. In particular applicant organisations should consider the following in presenting their proposals:

- Young people experiencing economic disadvantage
- Young people who live in communities with higher than average levels of youth unemployment or intergenerational unemployment,
- Young people experiencing marginalisation or are at risk of not flourishing, have little or no formal structure in their lives, or are experiencing significant isolation from their community or peers.

Additionally, ETBs and Applicant Organisations will be encouraged to ensure a broad range of young people/NEETS are targeted to include;

- Young people with disabilities,
- Young people from minority ethnic groups, e.g. Travellers and Roma young people,
- Young people who are applicants for International Protection, or who have recently been awarded International Protection, whether they are living in a Direct Provision Centre or living in the community.

What is an ETB NEETS / Needs Profile?

An ETB NEETS/Needs Profile may be provided by the ETB during the application process. This is a profile and/or a needs assessment of the prioritised target group(s) and/or geographic location(s) that the ETB intends to be the primary focus of the interventions in the ETB functional area.

Applicant Organisations must respond to the ETB NEETS/Needs Profile addressing the target groups and needs identified within same. When completing the application form, applicant organisations will clearly outline how the proposed programme/actions responds to the ETB NEETS/Needs Profile.

What needs are to be addressed if the ETB does not issue an ETB NEETS / Needs Profile?

Where ETBs do not issue an ETB NEETS/Needs Profile, applicant organisations are expected to respond to the needs of the TYESI target group (*see 'What is the target group?' above*). Identification of need must be supported by qualitative and quantitative data.

What approaches/actions are eligible under the TYESI?

Participation by young people will be on a voluntary basis. The overall approach should aim to engage with young people to develop their personal and social development outcomes and support young people by preparing them for onward progression to further education, training and/or employment. A community based, young person-centred supportive response to the needs of the target group should be clearly evident. Mentoring and coaching **must** be incorporated into the service delivery.

The concentration is on soft skills outcomes, coaching and mentoring. The TYESI focuses on the individual needs of young people for progressing in education, training and employment, with skill development based on the young person's strengths and identified areas for improvement. Support is provided throughout the process, and young people progress at their own pace.

Employability and Soft Skills to be addressed

Life skills, like those that involve employability, are transferrable into more specific areas of one's participation in society. The following table illustrates possible parallels between soft universal and employment focused skills.

Soft Universal Skills	needed for	Employment focused Skills
Independent living		Job hunting, advice, making applications
Self-esteem		Interview training, CV's
Working with others		Work Experience
Participation		Career management
Literacy, numeracy, ICT		Training and Education
Self- awareness, reflection		Critical thinking, understanding the role

How much funding is available?

Each ETB has been allocated an annualised budget for the TYESI. Each ETB will advertise the scheme and the total amount available. A formal allocation will only be made following approval by the Department. The maximum funding allocation per individual project will not exceed the allocation available to the ETB or €75,000 whichever is the lesser amount.

An additional allocation of up to €5,000 for non-capital, once-off set-up costs will be made available to TYESI services who are approved an annual funding allocation in excess of €25,000 in 2024.

How can organisations/groups apply for funding?

Applicant organisations must fully complete the application form and submit to the relevant ETB using the designated email by the closing date set by the ETB. Please be advised that incomplete applications and/or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

What expenditure is eligible under the TYESI?

Direct and indirect costs are eligible expenditure under the TYESI. Direct costs refer to staff and programme costs. Indirect costs refer to rent, light, heat, etc. Indirect costs must not exceed **15%** of the total budget. If the total cost of the project is greater than the amount of the grant sought, the applicant must clearly outline the source of the balance of funding and how it will be secured. Duplication of funding is not permitted.

How are applications assessed?

Each ETB will convene an ETB Youth Coordination Group meeting to review all completed applications received by the deadline. The ETB Youth Coordination Group will make recommendations to the DCEDIY based on the scoring system provided.

What are the criteria ETBs will use to recommend applications to the DCEDIY?

The criteria are as follows: Identified need, progression through partnership, soft skills, additionality and sustainability, mentoring and coaching and value for money. Applications must meet the minimum score requirement for each award criteria to be eligible for grant funding. In order to qualify to be considered for TYESI monies, applicants must clearly address the identified need and score a minimum of 15 points in each individual category thereafter.

What are the reporting requirements of the TYESI?

Successful organisations will be required to adhere to the terms of the Service Level Agreement with the relevant ETB and work in an open and collaborative manner with the ETB over the course of the TYESI. All financial, operational and progress reports required for the TYESI must be submitted to the ETB. Any necessary changes to the service or expenditure as outlined in the application form must be agreed with the ETB in advance.

Are there prescribed measurement tools?

Yes, initially the 'Skills Summary' will be the mandatory tool to be used in the approved TYESI programmes. Additional tool(s) may be introduced at a later date. The prescribed measurement tools for the TYESI **must** be used by all successful applicants and the ETBs. This does not restrict successful applicant organisations from using other measurement tools suitable to their practice, project or the needs of young people.

Will support and training be provided to approved TYESI programmes?

Yes. Support will be provided by the relevant ETB throughout the scheme. Additionally, DCEDIY will establish a Network for TYESI Youth Workers. The Network will meet for the purpose of cpd/training, information sharing, peer to peer learning and collaborative work throughout the scheme. Participation and engagement in the Network is mandatory for youth workers delivering the TYESI. This includes any/all other activities delivered by, or on behalf of, DCEDIY for the TYESI.