

## TRAINING LINKS PROGRAMME 2021 – 2023 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### **Q. What help is available from The Wheel in completing the application form?**

The Wheel is available to discuss your application idea. We do not offer support with completing the application form. Please contact Lauren Carroll on [traininglinks2021@wheel.ie](mailto:traininglinks2021@wheel.ie) for information or to discuss your application idea.

### **Q. Can existing Training Networks apply for funding?**

Yes. Applications are welcome from **new, existing, previously funded, or previously unsuccessful networks.**

### **Q. Are there any restrictions on the type of training that can be supported by The Wheel?**

All types of training and development that meet the programme objectives, priority areas and cross-cutting challenges, are eligible for support. The only restriction applies to training that is required by law. This should be carried out by all organisations whether or not they access training grants.

### **Q. Who chooses the types of training and who provides that training?**

As the Training Networks programme is an organisation-led initiative, the organisations in the Training Network decide all aspects of the training. The Wheel makes no restrictions on who provides the training or what type of courses the Network delivers.

### **Q. Do all proposals have to be from groups in the same area of work?**

No, proposals can come from any group of organisations with a shared training need. Networks can be a group of organisations in the same town, for example, or a group of organisations that have a common goal. Equally, organisations that share a common way of work, e.g. social enterprises, can find this a useful source of upskilling supports. Training needs can also apply to any specific group within an organisation — e.g. policy officers, youth workers — or to the organisation as a whole.

### **Q. Where did the priority areas for training come from?**

Training Links is funded from the National Training Fund (NTF) through the Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The National Skills Council, an advisory group to this department, sets national priorities for skills needed across all sectors of the economy. In its summer statement 2020, and in light of the COVID-19 crisis, the National Skills Council established priority themes to guide expenditure of NTF funding. The Wheel aligned these priorities with recent research and surveys conducted across the sector pre and post-COVID-19 in relation to what the sector's self-identified training and

support needs are. For this round of Training Links funding, the priority areas are as identified in Section 3 of the programme overview document.

**Q. When will I know whether my project application has been successful?**

Dates are subject to change:

**Training Links Timetable of Activities**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>21 June 2021</b>	Applications open
<b>13 August 2021, 5pm</b>	Applications close
<b>16 August – 30 September 2021</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stage 1 - Eligibility review (16 August – 20 August)</li> <li>2. Eligibility appeals process (23 – 27 August 2021)</li> <li>3. Stage 2 - Independent assessment (30 August - 10 September 2021)</li> <li>4. Stage 3 - Confirmation of selection (13 September – 17 September 2021)</li> <li>5. Selection appeals process (20 September – 24 September 2021)</li> <li>6. Final decision on results (24 September – 30 September)</li> </ol>
<b>1 October 2021</b>	All applicants informed about their result.
<b>4 - 8 October 2021</b>	Final changes/adjustments (if required) to network revised training plan, including revised outcomes, and budget for approval.
<b>15 October 2021</b>	Contracts signed, bank details and administrative details received from successful Training Networks.
<b>15 October 2021 – 31 March 2023</b>	Training Networks Operational Period.
<b>30 September 2021</b>	Online Network Coordinator kick off meeting.
<b>22 October 2021</b>	25% grant.
<b>30 December 2021</b>	25% grant.
<b>30 June 2022</b>	40% grant.

<b>14 April 2023</b>	Completion of final report. Final financial and narrative report, and the network evaluation must be submitted to The Wheel.
<b>28 April 2023</b>	Final 10% grant.
<b>Monitoring and evaluation.</b>	