

## TRAINING LINKS PROGRAMME 2024 - 2026 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 [traininglinks2024@wheel.ie](mailto:traininglinks2024@wheel.ie) for information or to discuss your application idea.

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

Applications are welcome from **new networks, previously funded networks who have completed the programme, and 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 to address a specific workforce training goal that meet the eligibility criteria, programme objectives, priority areas and cross-cutting challenges are eligible for support. The only restriction applies to training that is required by law.

### **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. What is match funding?**

Match funding can be comprised of actual cash matching to cover the balance of the costs or “in kind”. Match Funding e.g., eligible costs that form part of the total training costs but are not being claimed from the Training Links grant but contributed “in kind” by the training network.

#### **Example:**

Total costs of delivering the Training Links programme including staff costs	€25,000
Training Links grant available (80%)	€20,000
Match Funding required (20%)	€5,000

### **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 workforce training goal. 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. The priority areas are as identified in Section 3 of the programme overview document.

**Q. Can the role of Network Coordinator be shared?**

Yes. The role of Network Coordinator can be divided between two members of the Training Network. This decision must be made in consultation with all members of the Training Network. The Network Coordinator(s) must have sufficient time and capacity to manage the Training Network for the duration of the programme. This person / people will be the point of contact between The Wheel and the Training Network.

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

15 July 2024.

Dates are subject to change:

**Training Links Timetable of Activities**

Date	Action
<b>11 March 2024</b>	Training Network information exchange (2 weeks)
<b>22 March 2024</b>	Circulate responses to information exchange
<b>25 March 2024</b>	Applications open
<b>17 May 2024</b>	Applications close

<b>20 May – 12 July 2022</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stage 1 - Eligibility review (20 - 24 May 2024)</li> <li>2. Eligibility appeals process (27 - 31 May 2024)</li> <li>3. Stage 2 - Independent assessment (3 - 14 June 2024)</li> <li>4. Stage 3 - Confirmation of selection (17 – 21 June 2024)</li> <li>5. Inform unsuccessful networks (24 -28 June 2024)</li> <li>6. Selection appeals process (1 – 5 July 2024)</li> <li>7. Final decision on results (8 – 12 July 2024).</li> </ol>
<b>15 July 2024</b>	All applicants are to be informed about their result
<b>15 - 19 July 2024</b>	Final changes/adjustments (if required) to network revised training plan, including revised outcomes, and budget for approval
<b>22 July 2024</b>	Contracts signed, bank details and administrative details received from successful Training Networks
<b>22 July 2024 – 10 January 2026</b>	Training Networks Operational Period (18 months)
<b>July 2024</b>	33% grant – payment 1/4 (pending progress)
<b>3 Sept 2024</b>	Online Network Coordinator kick off meeting
<b>30 Sept 2024</b>	Quarterly update
<b>31 December 2024</b>	Quarterly update
<b>January 2025</b>	17% grant – payment 2/4 (pending progress)
<b>31 March 2025</b>	Quarterly update
<b>April – May 2025</b>	Monitoring visits
<b>May 2025</b>	Network Coordinator meeting 2
<b>30 June 2025</b>	Interim report (including quarterly update)
<b>July 2025</b>	17% grant – payment 3/4 (pending progress)
<b>30 Sept 2025</b>	Quarterly update
<b>31 December 2025</b>	Quarterly update

<b>16 January 2026</b>	Completion of final report. Final financial and narrative report, and the network evaluation must be submitted to The Wheel.
<b>January 2026</b>	Final 33% grant – payment 4/4 (pending progress and completion of programme)
<b>Support and monitoring.</b>	