

TRAINING LINKS PROGRAMME 2026 - 2028 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

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

We have recorded a step-by-step video going through the application form to make the application process clearer. The video is [available here](#).

If you have questions about the application after reviewing our overview documents and videos, please contact us on traininglinks@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 Links 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. Can a Network Member Organisation deliver the training?

Yes. A network member can act as the training provider. However, the application must clearly state that:

- If the training provider is a network member (or the lead organisation), they have the same training needs as the other members.



- The network is a genuine, established partnership- not simply a group of the provider’s unrelated clients.
- The members have come together to identify and address a shared training need.

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. For example, Training Networks can be a group of organisations in the same town 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. From previous network coordinator feedback, we would encourage networks to explore this option to ensure the additional work of being a network coordinator is sustainable.

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

On or by 12 June 2026.

Training Links Timetable of Activities

Dates are subject to change.

Date	Action
9 March – 24 April 2026	Applications open
24 April 2026	Applications close
27 April – 12 June 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stage 1 - Eligibility review (27 April- 1 May 2026) 2. Eligibility appeals process (4-11 May 2026) 3. Stage 2 - Independent assessment (12-26 May 2026) 4. Stage 3 - Confirmation of selection (27-29 May 2026) 5. Inform unsuccessful networks (29 May 2026) 6. Selection appeals process (1-5 June 2026) 7. Final decision on results (8-12 June 2026)
12 June 2026	Inform all successful applicants about their result
15-19 June 2026	Final changes/adjustments (if required) to Training Network's revised training plan, including revised outcomes, and budget for approval
22-29 June 2026	Contracts signed, bank details and administrative details received from successful Training Networks
1 July 2026	Online Network Coordinator kick off meeting
10 July 2026	33% grant – payment 1/4 (pending progress)
9 Sept 2026	Project Plan Check In

16 Sept 2026	In person Training Links Shared Learning Event
20 Nov 2026	Optional Drop in Q&A Session
30 Nov 2026	Quarterly Report #1 & Drawdown Letters
31 December 2026	17% grant – payment 2/4 (pending progress)
16 March 2027	Optional Drop in Q&A Session
24 March 2027	Quarterly Report #2
April / May 2027	Monitoring visits
11 June 2027	Optional Drop in Q&A Session
23 June 2027	Interim Report & Drawdown Letters
31 July 2027	17% grant – payment 3/4 (pending progress)
17 Sept 2027	Optional Drop in Q&A Session
23 Sept 2027	Quarterly Report #3
10 Dec 2027	Optional Drop in Q&A Session
17 Dec 2027	Quarterly Report #4
14 March 2028	Optional Drop in Q&A Session
24 March 2028	Completion of final report and drawdown letters. Final financial and narrative report, and the network evaluation must be submitted to The Wheel.
30 April 2028	Final 33% grant – payment 4/4 (pending progress and completion of programme)
Ongoing Support & Monitoring	

