

## TRAINING LINKS PROGRAMME 2025 - 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 us on [traininglinks2025@wheel.ie](mailto:traininglinks2025@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
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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?**

31 March 2025.

**Training Links Timetable of Activities**

Dates are subject to change:

Date	Action
<b>20 November 2024</b>	Training Network EOI opens

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

<b>July 2026</b>	17% grant – payment 3/4 (pending progress)
<b>30 Sept 2026</b>	Completion of final report. Final financial and narrative report, and the network evaluation must be submitted to The Wheel.
<b>28 October 2026</b>	Final 33% grant – payment 4/4 (pending progress and completion of programme)
<b>Support and monitoring.</b>	