

Digital Future Academy Partnership Bid

FAQs

This document attempts to answer specific questions raised by partners during the partner briefing meeting held on the 13th June 2023. A wider FAQ document about SPF is available here <https://ciosgoodgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SPF-FAQs-V9.1.pdf>.

This is a working document and updates will be made as questions are submitted up to the deadline of the 23rd June.

Q1. Does the project activity end in March or does it all need to be evaluated and wrapped up by March (so end in Jan).

A. You can claim for costs up until the end of March 2025, so have a think about when delivery needs to end as costs that occur in April will not be eligible. E.g. how would you cover reporting of the delivery, if delivery ended in March 2025. In regards to evaluation, the final externally evaluated report must be submitted by the 1st May 2025. Please see pages 16-17 within the Monitoring and Evaluation document <https://ciosgoodgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SPF-Good-Growth-M-and-E-Framework.pdf>

Q2. Do you want the Expression of Interests to reference any Project Management offers (and indicative resource requirements) or is it delivery only at this stage?

A. Yes, there is a separate tab on Annexe A to supply this information. Section 9 in the EOI also provides a space for you to submit a narrative around any experience/support you would like to offer to the consortium.

Q3. Do you have any details on the reporting requirements e.g. systems used and evidence requirements at this point?

A. There is a guidance document on the Good Growth Website called the UKSPF: Outputs & Outcomes Evidence Bank – follow this https://ciosgoodgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UKSPF_Indicators-evidence-bank-.xlsx Please have a look at that. The consortium will need to report into the GG team on a quarterly basis. We would also refer you to the following government document for reporting guidance; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-reporting-and-performance-management-3>

Q4. Is it possible to get a definition of life skills as it's a lot of the outputs and often means different things? Is there a sense of how this is to be measured / recorded? Or for the applicant to design?

A. "Life skills support is defined as additional support which improves confidence, resilience or motivation around the process of job searching and may include basic skills (English, maths), digital skills, communication skills, presentation skills, activities which reduce social isolation or encourage appropriate employment related behaviours." In regards to measurement and recording, more information can be found here at;
https://ciosgoodgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/UKSPF_Indicators_13.07.22.pdf

Q5. What is the evaluation mechanism for ensuring the skill training courses being submitted are actually good enough for employers/industry?

A. Ideally they should be accredited and on the RFQ. However, where there is skills/curriculum development then there should be quality checks and a view to leading to modules/courses becoming accredited. This employer development/voice should be built into this process.

Digital Skills & Jobs deep dive research has specific recommendations around skills providers working more closely with industry and we'd expect that to be mirrored in proposals.

Section 7 in the EOI document, looking at Quality and Impact, is the area to reflect on how your interventions are meeting the needs of local employers, and the relationships you have with employers to understand continued and changing needs.

Q6. Is the expectation that the provision is delivered 'free' (at point of access) for participants/businesses or is there an expected % charge that should be levied?

A. There is no requirement, but it would be good to see some employer contribution, where relevant. For individuals then yes we would expect provision to be free at point of access. We would advise looking at the wider FAQ document, see link
<https://ciosgoodgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SPF-FAQs-V9.1.pdf>. If the employer is benefitting from the intervention then yes there should be some contribution.

We have asked the Good Growth team for further clarification on this point and we will update this document when we get it.

Q7. How will this be working with the current People Hub EOI/proposal (People Hub call - "Coordinated people and skills support")? What does that relationship look like as I know

there was mention of checking it wouldn't duplicate? Will the two projects be working together?

A. Should the People Hub proposal proceed, there should be a coordinating function with the other Good Growth deliverers. That will likely involve regular meetings to discuss activity and avoid duplication. Overlap is a risk and strong communication between the People Hub, Good Growth Hub, and other skills funded activity leads is absolutely crucial to the success of each part.

Q8. Are the People/Skills hubs funded separately or from within this fund?

A. £12m People & Skills fund divided into 4 as follows:

1. People Hub £6m
2. Digital £2m
3. Youth £2m
4. Green £2m

Q9. Do the qualification outputs need to be accredited (are there any required GLH, levels, RQF mapping) or can it be non-accredited?

A. We believe they can be non-accredited. We have asked for clarification from the Good Growth team about whether the 375 people gaining a qualification need to be accredited and we will update this document when we get it.

Q10. Annex A has a line concerning "Match" (see guidance). I can't find the guidance mentioned.

A. The first tab on the spreadsheet is called 'Guidance', the Match is referenced within this tab.

Q11. I would like to seek clarification regarding discussions held during the recent project briefing. You stated that you would welcome information with regard to organisations that would like to be considered to run the administration of the project. It is not clear where you require such information to be entered.

With regard to Annexe A, the second-page "tab" states project management costs. Is that with regard to the management/administration of the project or delivery partner project management costs?

A. Please enter information regarding any support you would like give towards project management and administration into Section 9 of the EoI. This is not a scored element of your proposal. At this point we are seeking to understand what could be possible.

With regard to Annexe A, please see the first tab named 'Guidance' which refers to the third tab 'Project Management Costs'.

Q12. I wanted to check the rules around the match are the same as other bids within SPF. We would expect some employer contributions to training costs, but I think I am right in saying that we cannot include that as a match because it is not guaranteed?

A. We understand that employer contributions can be used as match, but they would need to be evidenced so consideration needs to be made to that. We will seek clarification from the Good Growth Fund team but at this stage with the deadline for EoIs to be returned on the 30th June, we are unlikely to receive a response to this in time. Please rest assured that should your EoI be successful we shall seek full clarification at this point and discuss these final details with you as we move towards the final BID writing process.

Q13. Is the Indirect Costs model for this 15% as per other SPF projects? It is not specified in the call, but other Leads have specified that this is their preferred model.

I also wanted to check and clarify if there was a minimum and maximum amount that prospective partners should adhere to?

A. Again, our assumption is that it will mirror other projects but we would need to seek clarification from the Good Growth Fund team on the first part of this question. In regards to minimum and maximum amounts, then yes, we would like to understand what this looks like for your organisation to support pulling the collaborative BID together.