

Please note only applications received **by post** will be accepted. Please ensure correct postage is paid prior to sending documents and proof of postage is retained.

Application forms and guidance notes will be available to download at www.early-years.org/pathway-fund

¹ This will be assessed using the most disadvantaged (Super Output) areas, as defined by the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 and the Education Skills and Training Deprivation ranking 2017.

To check your postcodes in Super Output Areas please visit www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/AreaProfile.aspx?Menu=True

²The principles of the Code of Practice for Reducing Bureaucracy in Grant Funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector 2015 is available from www.early-years.org/pathway-fund

Key Dates

Monday 7th January 2019 - Information Session from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast

Tuesday 8th January 2019 - Information Sessions from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena
6:00pm to 8:00pm in Newry Early Years Centre, Newry

Wednesday 9th January 2019 - Information Session from 4.00pm to 6.00pm in Fermanagh Early Years Centre, Ballinamallard
6.00pm to 8.00pm Everglades Hotel, Derry/Londonderry

Thursday 10th January 2019 - Information Session from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in The Junction, Dungannon

Monday 14th January 2019 - Information Session from 6.00pm to 8.00pm in Omagh Enterprise Centre, Omagh

Tuesday 15th January 2019 - Information Session from 4.00pm to 6.00pm in Corr's Corner Hotel, Newtownabbey

For further information please contact **The Pathway Fund office** on 028 9066 2825 (option 2) or email thepathwayfund@early-years.org



The Pathway Fund 2019/20

The Pathway Fund in 2019/20 will be subject to the availability of Department of Education (DE funding).

Content relates to the Pathway Fund arrangements for 2019/20. Arrangements beyond 2019/20 will be determined at a later date



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

early years
the organisation for young children

Outcomes

In support of the DE vision “*an education system that is recognised internationally for the quality of its teaching and learning, for the achievements of its young people and for a focus on meeting their needs*”.

The outcomes of the Pathway Fund are:

- Improved development of children who are at risk of not reaching their full potential within the school system; and
- An enhanced more sustainable early years sector.

The Pathway Fund will be open to all facilitators or registered providers of early years education and learning provision focused on children 0-4 such as:

- **Registered Sessional Day-care Settings (Out of Schools, Summer Schemes, Playgroups, Crèches)**
- **Registered Full Day Care Settings (Day Nurseries)**
- **Registered Childminders**

In 2019/20 the Pathway Fund will be administered over two streams and applicants can apply to one or the other, not both. Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

Stream A

A competitive funding application process open to all providers or facilitators with the following conditions in place:

- Awards will be made for over £15,000 up to £30,000.
- Confirmation of need for the project and the funding requested.
- Proposed projects will be assessed against the 7 Fund criteria.

Stream B

A competitive funding application process open to all providers or facilitators with the following conditions in place:

- Awards will be made up to £15,000.
- Confirmation of need for the project and the funding requested.
- Proposed projects will be assessed against the 4 priority Fund criteria.

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

Applicants will be required to demonstrate that they are not in receipt of any alternative funding or income to provide the service outlined in the application. Only applicants deemed eligible will be assessed.

Settings will be evaluated to determine to what extent they meet set criteria as follows:

The criteria in bold are most heavily weighted;

	Stream A	Stream B
i. Providing quality education and learning services in areas of social disadvantage to address both educational and social disadvantage¹.	✓	✓
ii. Ensuring children with additional needs receive appropriate early years support	✓	✓
iii. Provision of services/support to children at risk of harm	✓	✓
iv. Addressing access to/improvement of infrastructure of services in rural areas and other areas where there is little or no provision	✓	✓
v. Improving access for children with additional needs;	✓	
vi. Improving the integration and building of community relations from an early age;	✓	
vii. Delivering community based services using a social economy model.	✓	

Overall scores will be calculated and funding awarded to eligible applicants listed in rank order in both Streams A and B.

The principles of the Code of Practice for Reducing Bureaucracy in Grant Funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector 2015² will be applied in the allocation and verification of funding.

Stream A applications open on Thursday 3rd January 2019 and close on Monday 4th February 2019 at 4:00pm.

Stream B applications open on Thursday 3rd January 2019 and close on Monday 28th January 2019 at 4:00pm.