European Union
European
Social Fund

2014-2020 ESF Programme

Action Note

Reference Number:	**009/17**
Date Issued:	**19 December 2017**
Review date:	**18 June 2018**

ESF and Housing Costs

Who

All ESF beneficiary organisations, European Social Fund Division, IBs and GLA

What

This Action Note is about the use of ESF to assist with Housing Costs for participants.

Cleared

Emma Kirkpatrick

Background

Using ESF for Housing Costs

Following a number of queries in relation the ability of ESF to provide help with housing costs we have reviewed the policy. Where a participant is unable to focus on improving their skills or entering into work due to a housing crisis then they may be able to receive support that will help provide a solution to their housing issue and allow them to concentrate on moving towards work or into employment.

A major barrier to employment for some of our participants is the fact that they are homeless or have no fixed address and this can become a barrier that many feel prevents them from increasing their knowledge/skills or searching for work. To address this need moving forward and only where there is no other help available ESF is able to help participants overcome this barrier.

It is important to remember that in most areas Deposit and Bond Guarantee schemes are run by local councils, authorities or charities and information about these in England can be found here on the Shelter website.

Impact on ESF Delivery

For each participant experiencing housing issues and needing support from ESF, projects must be able to demonstrate that these costs are a fundamental part of a set of actions that will support a participant to achieve their goals and that it contributes to the success of the project.

Each case where support with housing costs are being considered must be assessed on its own merits and each claim must be compliant with ESF rules with an adequate audit trail. This means that there must be robust evidence to show that without this specific type of ESF support the participant would be unable to move towards the labour market or into work and this must also be supported with evidence that there is no other help available from any other source to address this need. In all cases, this must be justified and an integral part of the package of support that is being offered to that individual.

Action

To note that where absolutely necessary to allow a participant to move towards the labour market and into work and where no existing help is available from other sources, help with housing costs may be funded by ESF.

Contact

For questions please contact: ESF.2014-2020@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK