



Business Grants / Loans / Funding 2015 / 2016

Guidance notes:

Prior to writing an application read the eligibility & criteria carefully to ascertain if your business and or sector qualifies and to establish the funder's requirements. Most funders require the applicants to evidence how the grant / investment will impact growth and result in the creation of new jobs. Some funders ask to submit an Expression of Interest prior to reaching the formal application stage.

Most of the current business grants are matched funded. IE will contribute pound for pound to the cost of a project. Most funders set minimum and maximum thresholds. Most grants currently available are for capital expenditure (CAPEX)*. And not sales generating projects, like a marketing consultant or marketing activities. Some funders may allow for a contribution to a new salary.

It is always advisable to check the exact nature of investments allowed with the funder.

*A capital expenditure (Capex) is money invested by a company to acquire or upgrade fixed, physical, non-consumable assets, such as buildings and equipment or a new business.

There are two types of Capex – those that are invested in to maintain existing levels of operation within a company and those that are invested in something new to foster future growth. Customarily, regardless of the manner of investment, Capex is money spent with the intent of initiating future cash flow and a substantial return on investment (ROI).

When completing an application, ensure you submit and attach the information asked for by the funder.

Most funders now ask for a three year business plan & three years of financial forecasts, (usually cash flow & profit & loss forecasts)

Writing an application for funding requires a particular skill. If in doubt about your ability to complete an excellent application and business plan, please discuss with Kerry Kyriacou or Amanda Geel. Amanda has a successful track record assisting businesses with funded applications. Amanda's contact details are included below.

The loans and grants listed below are mostly available to businesses who are unable to secure borrowing from the bank. Some of the grants available are only available to certain business sectors.

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Loan Schemes

| Business stage | Amount & geographic area | Provider | Detail | Web link | Deadline |
|---|---|--|--|---|----------|
| Start-up Trading for less than 24 months. | National scheme Maximum loan amount £25,000 | Let's Do Business Group Enterprise First Biz Britain | Government-backed Start Up Loan Competitive rate of interest. The loan is secured by government. Applicants for the startup loan may also become eligible for a free business mentor to help develop the business plan. | https://www.startuploans.co.uk | open |
| Growing businesses 12 months or older | Sussex, Kent, Surrey or Hampshire. Loans of between £3,000.00 and £50,000.00. | Let's do Business Group | Available to successful, profitable & growing businesses | http://www.letsdobusinessgroup.co.uk/business-growth-loans.aspx | open |

Business Growth Grants:

| Business stage | Amount & geographic area | Provider | Detail | Web link | Deadline |
|--|---|--|---|---|----------|
| Start-ups, micro, small and medium businesses | East Sussex £3,000 - £25,000 in grant funding | Locate East Sussex East Sussex County Council | The Business Growth Fund Grants: Up to £8,000 of grant funding can be applied for each job created. This sum can be higher for businesses in specific Priority Sectors | http://www.locateeastsussex.org.uk/business-growth-fund.aspx | open |

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| | £10,000 - £200,000 in loan funding . | | <p>There is a match funding requirement - usually a minimum of 60% for grants (for grants under £10,000, 50% of the match funding can be working capital).</p> <p>Loans: £10,000 - £200,000 in loan funding. Up to £16,000 of loan funding can be applied for, for each job created. This sum can be higher for businesses in specific Priority Sectors</p> <p>There is a match funding requirement of a minimum of 50% for loans.</p> | | |
| SME Manufacturers | <p>South East</p> <p>£300-£3000 matched contribution to a specific business improvement project</p> | Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) | <p>Project specific - undertake a short business review and diagnostic to:</p> <p>Identify your barriers to growth Discuss your opportunities to improve Create Action Plan including any project scope to achieve growth</p> <p>Establish if your business is eligible to receive any funding towards a specific business improvement project.</p> | http://www.mas.businessgrowthservice.greatbusiness.gov.uk/ | Open |
| Start-ups, micro, small and medium businesses | <p>Coast to Capital area</p> <p>£5,000-£20,000</p> <p>Click here to view C2C region: http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/about-us/coast-to-capital-zone.html#sthash.1qzesFh.dpbs</p> | Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership | <p>Small Business Grant</p> <p>All sectors to support businesses planning to create new jobs.</p> <p>If you would like to be kept informed about future grant funding rounds email grants@coast2capital.org.uk</p> | http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/helping-business-growth/grant-funding.html#sthash.ScictLAM.dpbs | Closed May reopen April 2016 |

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| Start-ups, micro, small and medium businesses | Coast to Capital area £15,000-£100,000 | Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership | Business Growth Grant Sector focused – To support high growth businesses planning to create new jobs. | http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/helping-business-growth/grant-funding.html#sthash.ScictLAM.dpbs | Closed May reopen April 2016 |
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Crowd Funding:

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| Start-ups , | National | Kick Starter | Crowd funding – Community projects Project based funding. A Kickstarter project does more than raise money. It builds community around your work. | www.kickstarter.com | Open |
| SMEs | National | Funding Circle | Peer-to-peer lending platform Funding Circle has helped to generate more than £500million of lending to small firms in the UK and America. The online marketplace, which enables businesses to borrow directly from people and organizations, reached the milestone just days after announcing a tie-up with Royal Bank of Scotland | www.fundingcircle.com | Open |