



GUIDELINES

Dorset Growth Hub – Growth Grants

- As part of a Grant Scheme (The Dorset Business Growth Partnership) funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and run by The Dorset Growth Hub, funding may be available to assist your business to grow. Growth grants range from a **minimum of £1,000 to a maximum of £10,000** and will be available on a match funded basis of at least 3:1. This means that the business must contribute at least 75% of the total eligible project costs. For example, a project totalling £ 10,000 could attract ERDF grant funding of £2,500, or a project of £40,000 or more could attract the maximum grant support of £10,000.
- To be eligible you will have engaged with our programme and received a minimum of 3 hours support in the form of 1-2-1 diagnostic and information meeting, workshop, and/or seminar.
- You will need to demonstrate that a grant will assist your business to grow in a number of ways including job creation (number of and quality), increase in turnover, introducing new products or services to market. It is likely that your business will have a demonstrable profitable trading period from which to grow. We therefore expect that in most cases businesses to have been **trading for a minimum of 2 years**.
- Application is initially by Expression of Interest (EOI), submitted to grants@dorsetgrowthhub.co.uk. The EOI will be reviewed and you will be notified within 2 weeks of the outcome. If successful at the EOI stage then you will be invited to submit a full application (form) together with a supporting historic/current/projected financial package. Upon receipt of the full application the process will vary depending on the grant amount applied for:
 - Grant applications of **less than £5,000** will be assessed by a panel that usually is held once a month. Applicants will be notified shortly thereafter of the panel decision.
 - OR**
 - Grant applications of **£5,000 or more** will be assessed by an independent external panel and when appropriate the business may be invited to address the panel in person. The panel meets approximately every 8 weeks.
- Any claims for project costs must be in the future following the grant contractual signed agreement date. No retrospective claiming will be eligible.
- The Project cannot start until the grant has been agreed and the contractual agreements are signed.

The Growth Grant can be used for:

- Acquisition of plant and machinery as long as title is held by the application
- Research equipment
- Consultancy fees, including outsourced expertise (not legal or planning)

The Growth Grant cannot be used for:

- Depreciation
 - Repayment of debts
 - Gifts and donations
 - Land purchases
 - Internal transfers
 - Wage subsidy
 - Stock and consumables
 - General running costs of the business
 - Previously incurred expenses
 - Working capital
 - Vehicles and highly portable equipment
 - Asset purchase using asset finance
 - Planning permission
 - Legal expenses/fees
- We have kept this guidance and the application process as simple as possible and have not attempted to answer every question which might arise. Specific questions on what can be funded, the application process or anything else, can be addressed to an Access To Finance Specialist who will help you ensure your application is robust and ready to be submitted.
 - Please also note that some sectors are not eligible for support on this programme due to Central Government Legislation. These sectors include: *Fishery & Aquaculture, *Primary production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, *Coal, Steel and shipbuilding sectors, *Synthetic Fibres, *Generalised School Age Education, *Banking and Insurance Companies, * Nuclear related activity (*please follow the link for full eligibility guidelines)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760264/ESIF-GN-1-003_ERDF_Eligibility_Guidance_v9.pdf

- Some Retail activities are also ineligible. We can only accept those who are eligible into our grant programme. If you require more information or are unsure if you are eligible for the support, you can call us on 01202 607533 and a member of the Dorset Growth Hub team will be happy to help.