

ACTOR European Social Fund (ESF) procurement update

- **Provision to Support the Unemployed**

Date of issue 11 April 2011

The direct selection process is being used for this procurement exercise. This process is described in the [External Briefing Note](#) published by the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) on 22 February 2011.

This briefing note also confirmed that if organisations submitted information in the Programmes for the Unemployed section of the Adult Skills Budget Invitation to Tender (ITT) in January, then the Agency would use this information to identify and select providers to deliver ESF co-financed provision which supported unemployed individuals from April 2011.

Organisations should note that all information submitted on the Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR) is subject to corroboration and any initial offers are conditional and therefore do not constitute a formal contract offer. Conditional offers are subject to the receipt of satisfactory corroborative evidence (which may vary on a case by case basis depending on ITT responses). Where information cannot be supported or is found to be false, the Agency reserves the right to withdraw a conditional offer.

Once the position of conditional offers has been confirmed, organisations that completed the Programmes for the Unemployed Section of the Adult Skills Budget ITT will be advised of the outcome of the procurement exercise. The Agency expects to communicate this position the week commencing 18 April 2011. Until this time, the procurement process will still be underway and therefore we are unable to respond to any individual queries regarding the outcome of the process.

The Agency is using ESF to procure provision for the unemployed so that it is in place, as soon as possible, in order to continue to provide support to this client group following the end of previous Programmes for the Unemployed at the end of March. Please note, we will be running further ESF procurement rounds this year.

Skills Funding Agency

Cheylesmore House Quinton Road Coventry CV1 2WT
T 0845 377 5000 www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk
An agency of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

We are therefore requesting all organisations to ensure that they have registered correctly on ACTOR, in order that they can be considered for all future funding opportunities. This reflects the guidance issued previously (22 September 2010)

As activity co-financed by ESF aligns with the national Skills Strategy and thus mainstream activities (for example, Apprenticeships and provision for the unemployed) in most cases, separate Invitations to Tender will not need to be issued to procure ESF provision.

A second ACTOR Briefing Note will be published shortly to provide further clarification.