Invitation to Express Interest

Adult EdTech Project: New Assessment Methodology

Funding: £150k (£50k x 3)

Closing date: 4th December 2020

Purpose

Assessment of practical and vocational subjects has become increasingly complex under COVID-19, in some cases with delivery organisations and learners not even being able to meet face to face. One of the main challenges is around what evidence awarding bodies will accept, such as using a video to assess a learner doing a subject such as brickwork. In most work-based learning situations, assessment in a real work environment is prescribed as the only form of assessments.

Beyond the constraints of awarding body regulations, there is the wider issue of how to make assessment more personalised, inclusive and reflective of the industry/sector the learner wants to work in, all the while retaining the rigour. The traditional system of assessment benefits a small proportion of learners, based on their ability to retain knowledge, but, approached differently, assessment has the potential to be far more reflective of a learner's skills, attributes and competency. Technology has the ability to achieve this in a flexible, realistic and cost-effective way.

WMCA is offering the opportunity for an organisation (a WMCA AEB provider) potentially working with an awarding organisation(s) to develop an innovative approach using technology in the area of assessment, and who will then play a leading role in sharing their experience and models to support other providers.

The successful three organisations will receive up to £50k in grant funding to create and deliver their model and to share their practice.

Project Aims

The project is to design, develop and pilot the use of new innovative assessment methodologies that maximises the use of technology and is based on the recent JISC report and the experience around vocational assessment. We will offer 3 awards of £50k for colleges / providers to develop new assessment methodologies for vocational learning (practical elements) and SEND learning.

https://www.jisc.ac.uk/reports/shaping-the-digital-future-of-fe-and-skills

The Assessment Methodology project has a valuable place within the current situation created by the pandemic. Through the recent transition to remote learning it can be difficult for learners stay motivated if they are not receiving the right support through assessment. The aim of the project is to provide learners with a secure, robust and fair assessment model, by developing new assessment approaches including flexibility for hybrid delivery, such as just in time, simulated assessment and

micro-credentials. It should aspire to fulfil the five principles laid out in the Jisc Future of Assessment report[1].

The current pandemic has shown that assessment is outdated, and your proposed assessment methodology must be viable in all situations, not just the current climate. Therefore, technology should be at the heart of the project, enabling all types of business and apprentices to have access. The assessment must be adaptable and inclusive across a variety of vocational assessments.

Minimum Requirements

The project will be expected to deliver approaches to assessment that address at least one of the current issues highlighted in the JISC report. It must also set out how this learning will be shared and demonstrated to others. It must not be used to develop commercial products for re-sale.

Organisations applying will need to:

- Set out their approach to addressing the challenge(s) and how technology will support this
- *Give a brief summary of your project and its potential impact on UK vocational learning.*
- Demonstrate their capacity and capability to support other colleges and community learning providers to use technology more effectively to help address challenges.
- **Describe the nature and scale of the vocational learning issue your project aims to address**
- **what is new and innovative about the use of technology in your project approach, how it is different from existing solutions and how will it change the current provision for vocational learning**
- **How will you continue to deliver using the product after the pilot has been completed and h**ow the project can be scaled

All programme support will now be provided remotely during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

WMCA will oversee the projects from a strategic co-ordination point of view and to ensure that colleges and providers are supported in delivering the projects and that conditions of grant are achieved. A third-party evaluator will be appointed to evaluate the impact and the value for money of the projects.

The project is scheduled to run until July 2021.

Funding

Funding will be made available to support colleges and adult training providers through funding for the delivery of the EdTech strategy.

The successful bidders will receive up to £50k each in grant funding to support the delivery of this programme. All expressions of interest should provide an overview of proposed expenditure against planned activity. Funding can be used for:

- Development time
- Equipment and Software
- Administrative costs

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[1] https://www.jisc.ac.uk/reports/the-future-of-assessment

- Knowledge sharing and demonstration sessions

Payment will be awarded to the college or adult training provider which will be accountable for compliance with the grant agreement. A review of activity and funding will be carried out quarterly by the WMCA. This review will assess progress against activity plans and will identify any risks and issues.

Funding will be paid based on a payment schedule agreed at award stage and in line with the grant agreements.

Funding Criteria

- To apply, your institution must be a WMCA funded FE College or Community Learning provider.
- WMCA will not score applications which do not meet the eligibility criteria. There is no right of appeal for rejected applications.

Evaluation Process

The WMCA evaluation partner, Winning Moves, will provide both formative and summative evaluation of the project to the WMCA.

Next Steps

Overview	Maximum Number of pages (A4 size)	Weighting
Organisation details	Up to 1 page	0%
Funding • Funding requested • Summary of proposed costings • Payment schedule requested	Up to 2 pages	0%
Outline for assessment methodology • Aim and summary • Objective • Strategic implementation of technology • How will the teaching and learning environment improve • How the site will support curriculum delivery and assessment • Improved accessibility and inclusion • How will the assessment method be adaptable as technology changes	Up to 5 pages	60%
Outcomes and Impact • The need / demand / expected outcomes • Benefits for teaching staff • Benefits for students • How the site will support other colleges and community learning providers • How the assessment and use of technology will work with Awarding Organisations requirements	Up to 5 pages	40%

• How scalable is the assessment method		

Deadline

The deadline for submission is **04 /12 /2020 at 12.00pm to <u>digitalfund@wmca.org.uk</u>**
Late applications will not be accepted.
Applications will be assessed by a multi organisational panel.
Providers will be advised by 18 /12 /2020 whether or not they have been successful.
Successful providers will be expected to start work on the project in January 2020.