

Awards are granted entirely at the discretion of the Legion, which may refuse applications from eligible applicants; there is no appeals procedure

Chapter 3

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

I have already started on a course and funded it from my own means, am I still eligible to apply? No, you cannot apply for an award if you have already started or enrolled on a course and paid or agreed to pay for the course from your own means or other payment agreements. You cannot apply for an award for anything that has already been paid for or you have made a commitment to pay e.g. HP agreements. Please contact Legionline 08457 725 725 to talk to the Legion's money advice team if you are experiencing financial difficulty because of a debt

Are there any restrictions on the type of course an award can fund? Yes, the skills training course must be undertaken in the UK, lead to a recognised qualification and must be linked to a job outcome, trade or profession. In the case of employability skills you must be low skilled and the course must be linked to an employment action plan that has been produced by your employment adviser.

Why do you not support funding for Close Protection courses? CP courses are very expensive and we have little evidence to support they lead to jobs or sustainable employment. We are always reviewing what we will or will not support and if the research findings change then will review our guidelines.

What does a sustainable employment outcome (SEO) look like? This scheme is to support people into jobs. We will need to see that the money awarded is linked to a job and that you have researched that job outcome. We expect to see a letter from an employer organisation stating that you will be offered a job subject to meeting the requirements you have asked us to assist funding with e.g. a skills course or qualification.

What if I do not have an SEO? If you do not have an SEO then you must provide us with a letter of support from the following approved support

agencies that is assisting you into employment. Currently we accept letters of support from: The Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA), The Officers Association (OA), Jobcentre Plus, DWP Work Program Providers and Prison Education/Resettlement Services. If you have a letter of support from another agency assisting you with employment then please submit and we will confirm whether it is acceptable.

How much is an Employment Support Grants or Bursary Award? We assess an application and in consultation with our local welfare team determine the level of financial assistance we may support. We expect the applicant to have made every effort to source funding from his/her own efforts and have a realistic view on what funding may or may not be available from charitable funds and be prepared to accept alternative career or skills training options that are more affordable. Due to the number of requests we receive each year and the availability of funding it is unlikely we will support funding where the total cost is in excess of £1,500 although all applications are reviewed and exceptional circumstances will be considered.

If my application is successful, how will I receive an award? You will be informed by our admin team if your application has been successful. Awards are paid direct to the Provider of the Service/goods by the Legion on receipt of agreed official invoices/bills.

What if my application is not successful? Awards are granted entirely at the discretion of the Legion which may refuse applications from eligible applicants. There is no appeals procedure but we will try to assist you with other types of funding applications or discuss alternative support.

I'm claiming benefits. Will they be affected? If you are claiming state benefits or want to do so while you are studying or working it is important that you talk to the office that pays your benefits before you apply for a Legion Employment Support Grant. Receiving an award may affect your benefit entitlement, which will not be compensated from Legion benevolent funds.