How to put together a Workforce Development Fund (WDF) claim 2021-22

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Introduction – the process

To support you with WDF, we have put together this guide on everything you need to know about claiming WDF.

You wish to claim WDF funding direct from Skills for Care Complete a WDF Direct Access application form. (Appendix 1). To be submitted to Skills for Care by 28 February 2022. If the WDF Direct Access application form is correctly completed*, Skills for Care will send you a grant letter for signature and, if necessary, guidance on how to meet ASC-WDS requirements.

PLEASE NOTE THAT
SIGNING A GRANT
LETTER DOES NOT
CONSTITUTE
SUBMITTING A CLAIM.
PLEASE READ ALL
EMAILS FROM Skills for
Care CAREFULLY.

Once the grant letter is signed and you have met ASC-WDS requirements, Skills for Care sends you a funding claim form and instructions on how to make a claim.

You complete the claim form and send the electronic version to Skills for Care, along with all the supporting evidence. Skills for Care will check the claim and will process and pay the claim as soon as possible. You'll be advised of any qualifications not paid and the reason why.

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^{*} You have an ASC-WDS account, are operating within the advertised Local Authority areas and have been validated as an adult social care employer.

What are the eligibility requirements for claiming WDF?

There are five parts to the eligibility requirements for direct access to WDF funding.

- You must be an adult social care employer.
- You must complete a WDF Direct Access application form, a copy of this must be submitted to Skills for Care by 28 February 2022. See appendix 1 for an example of the form. The form can be downloaded from the Skills for Care website. All forms must be completed using the same details that have been registered with the Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS).
- You must complete and sign a grant letter that will be sent to you electronically.
- You must fully complete and update your ASC-WDS workforce record(s) on or after the 1 April 2021 and before 17:00 on 31 May 2022.
- You must fully complete and update individual staff records for a minimum of 90% of your total workforce on or after the 1 April 2021, and before the 31 May 2022. Please refer to the WDF section of the Skills for Care website or the ASC-WDS website for further guidance on the ASC-WDS.

The ASC-WDS requirements must be met for you to receive a funding claim form. Without a funding claim form no claims can be made.

Within ASC-WDS there is an in-browser option which allows you to check whether you are meeting the requirements for WDF. If you need further help please call the ASC-WDS Support Service on 0113 241 0969 or email them at ascwds-support@skillsforcare.org.uk.

Please see appendix 3 for solutions to common eligibility queries.

WDF funded qualifications and learning 2021-22

You should refer to the SfC website for the latest list of what qualifications and learning will be funded. The list is reviewed in-year and updated as necessary.

When completing the form the only code you need to enter in column H is the qualification number, learning programme code, digital learning module or apprenticeship standard code as per the funded qualifications and learning list. It is recommended that you select "Go to List of Codes" (cell G6) and copy the relevant code from the data tab and paste into the claim form.

Learning that has been completed as part of an apprenticeship

In 21-22 WDF will respond to key sector priorities including completion of the adult social care apprenticeship standards. The apprenticeship standards that can be claimed for are:

- Adult Care Worker (level 2)
- Lead Adult Care Worker (level 3)
- Lead Practitioner in Adult Care (level 4)
- Leader in Adult Care (level 5)

Employers can claim funding in two stages – upon completion of the diploma and after the end-point assessment has been passed and the standard has been completed.

As it is a key Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) priority that we will be reporting on, it's imperative that learning that has been completed and claimed for as part of an apprenticeship is recorded accurately. It's important that when completing the claim form, due attention is paid to column 1, and that it's completed correctly. If the diploma award has been completed as part of an apprenticeship, you must inform us of this by selecting "yes" from the drop-down menu. Organisations will take this information from the employer claim submission form, which requires the employer to specify any learning which has been completed as part of an apprenticeship, or for employers to confirm that none of the learning was completed is part of an apprenticeship.

Evidence requirements

You must retain a copy of the full learner's certificate for every qualification, learning programme, digital learning module or apprenticeship claimed.

What is the evidence to claim a qualification?

The evidence to claim a qualification is a copy of the learner's certificate from the awarding organisation, which must contain the following information:

- candidate name
- candidate registration number
- unique learner number
- name of qualification
- qualification code as per the list of funded qualifications and learning
- the date of issue of the certificate must be between: 1 January 2021 31
 May 2022
- name of the awarding organisation
- name of the learning provider or centre number.

What is the evidence to claim an apprenticeship standard?

The evidence to claim an apprenticeship standard is a copy of the learner's diploma certificate to claim the diploma within the apprenticeship standard (full detail as set out above "what is the evidence to claim a qualification") and a copy of the final apprenticeship standard certificate. The final apprenticeship standard certificate must contain the following information:

- candidate name
- unique learner number
- name of the apprenticeship standard
- apprenticeship standard code as per the list of funded qualifications and learning (this can be written on)
- the date of award must be between 1 January 2021 31 May 2022
- the certificate must be issued by the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education (IfATE)

Please note that you can claim for the overall apprenticeship standard without claiming for the diploma via Skills for Care.

What is the evidence to claim a learning programme?

The evidence to claim for a learning programme is a copy of the learner's completion certificate from the endorsed learning provider which must contain the following information:

- candidate name
- candidate date of birth (this can be written on)
- name of learning programme completed
- our code for the learning programme completed as per the list of funded qualifications and learning (this can be written on, e.g. LTS for Lead to Succeed.)
- the date of issue of the certificate/completion of the course must be between 1
 January 2021 31 May 2022
- name of endorsed learning provider (must be a Skills for Care endorsed provider who is licenced to deliver the learning programme).

What is the evidence to claim a digital learning module?

The evidence to claim for a digital learning module is a copy of the learner's completion certificate which must contain the following information:

- candidate name
- candidate date of birth (this can be written on)
- name of digital learning module completed
- our code for the digital learning module completed as per the list of funded qualifications and learning (this can be written on, e.g. DLLM for the Leadership and Management module.)

the date of issue of the certificate/completion of the course must be between 1
 January 2021 - 31 May 2022

If any of this information is missing or unclear, you'll need to find it.

A maximum of £2,000 can be claimed per learner per financial year (April to May).

Once you have received and checked the evidence it is time to complete the funding claim form.

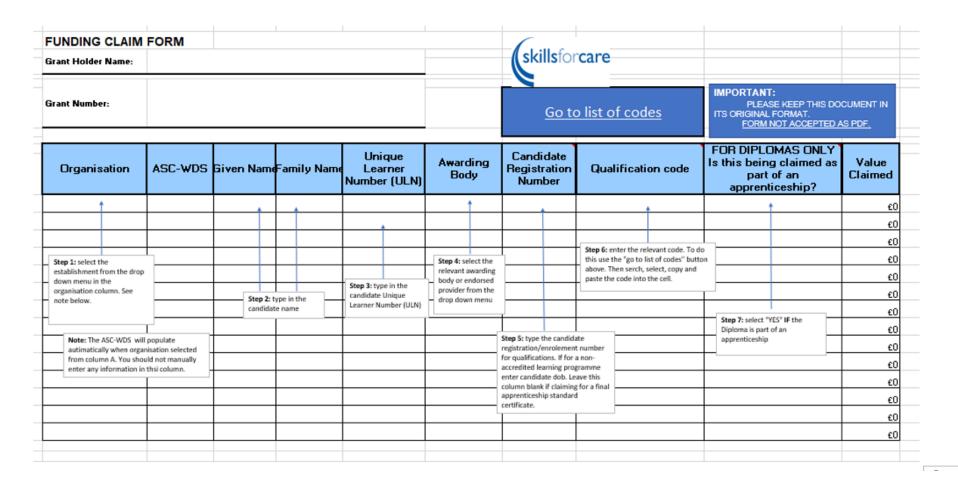
You'll receive a funding claim form from us. If you have more than one site/ASC-WDS account number assigned to your grant, you'll receive an updated funding claim form as and when a site becomes eligible. This will be because they've recently met the ASC-WDS requirements for WDF, or you have submitted a direct access declaration form for an establishment which meets these requirements.

On opening the claim form, you may see a yellow banner across the top of the screen (below) asking you to enable editing – please click the button to enable the document before inputting information (if you do not enable, the form will not be able to select and input data).



Please do not amend the format of the funding claim form. Examples of amendments include manually typing an establishment instead of selecting from the drop-down menu or inserting more lines. Amendments to forms may result in a delay in your claim being paid.

Filling out the claim form



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Step 1: Only WDF eligible members/establishments will appear on this drop-down menu. If a member/establishment is missing and you are sure they have met the requirements outlined on page 2 please contact the WDF team who will be able to advise further. Please **do not manually type in** the organisation name.

Step 2: Please ensure that the candidate name is entered fully and accurately. It is important to remember the following points:

- Please do not use the candidate's initials.
- It is your responsibility to keep us informed of any candidate name changes and the reason why, for example, if they have got married. Please let us know in writing so that we can keep our system up to date.

Step 3: Please ensure that the candidate's Unique Learner Number (ULN) is correctly entered for all qualifications and apprenticeship standards. This does not apply to the learning programmes or digital learning modules for which the column can be left blank.

Step 4: If the awarding body is unknown please refer back to the certificate, **do not just leave it blank**. Name of endorsed provider for learning programmes must be selected. The entry is Skills for Care for digital learning modules.

Step 5: Please ensure that the candidate registration/enrolment number is correctly entered. This is used to identify duplicate funding. For learning programmes and digital learning modules please enter candidate date of birth in the following format DD.MM.YY.

Step 6: The form is data sensitive, and you are strongly advised to copy the appropriate code from the data tab and paste it into the claim form. You can manually enter if you prefer but this may lead to an incorrect code being entered and the claim will be rejected

For RQF qualifications/awards

Please enter the qualification code **only.** Codes are displayed on the front page of the certificates. If the qualification is a diploma then go to step 7.

For Apprenticeship standard Levels 2 – 5 (End Point Assessment)

Please enter code ST0005 (for the level 2 apprenticeship standard), ST0006 (for the level 3 standard), ST0007 (for the level 4 standard) or ST0008 (for the level 5 standard). These codes should be available in the data tab of claim form.

If you are claiming for the diploma and the standard at the same time you will need to complete 2 lines for the candidate on the claim form, e.g. 1 line for the diploma and then a line for the standard.

For Learning Programmes

Please enter the learning programme code only. These codes will not be on the certificate but can be found in the data tab of your funding claim form.

For Digital Learning Modules

Please enter the digital learning modules code only. These codes will not be on the certificate but can be found in the data tab of your funding claim form.

Step 7:

For Diploma claimed

If the diploma is being claimed as part of an apprenticeship select **Yes** in the "FOR DIPLOMAS ONLY" column.

Once the code has been entered, **the value of the code** will be automatically calculated and populated into the value claimed column. You should not make any manual entries in this column. If the value does not appear to be correct, it is most likely that the code has been incorrectly entered.

Please do not leave blank lines between candidates.

Can I claim a lower amount of funding than the advertised qualification funding value if a lower cost has been incurred to complete the qualification?

Yes you can. This may be the case if another source of funding has been accessed in addition to WDF. Please contact your disbursement assistant for advice when you wish to claim a lower amount.

Other tabs on the claim form

You'll notice that the claim form has additional tabs called partners and data. The partners tab contains all the establishments that we have listed under your grant, regardless of their ASC-WDS status. If you have any establishments missing from this tab it is most likely that you did not include them on your declaration form. If an establishment is listed on the partners tab but not on the drop-down menu, it's because they have not met the ASC-WDS requirements for WDF. The establishment selected should be the the workplace of the learner that you want to claim for.

The data tab shows a list of your eligible establishments and the full list of acceptable qualifications and learning programmes, including description. Use this tab for codes information. The list of awarding bodies and endorsed providers are also available on this tab.

Managing your claim

When submitting your claim you need to complete and attach a WDF claim submission form (appendix 2). This will help us to accurately log receipt of the claim. It will also help you to keep track of your submissions. You just need to complete one form to cover the whole submission, even if it is made up of more than one funding claim form.

The claim and supporting evidence should be emailed to the Skills for Care WDF direct access administrator via the dedicated inbox (see below). Once the claim is received electronically by Skills for Care you'll receive an automated acknowledgement. Please let us know if you do not receive this as we do not accept responsibility for claims sent to the wrong email address, or email sending failure.

Skills for Care will endeavour to process all **correctly completed** claims and issue payments as soon as possible from receipt. This may take longer at busy times, particularly around milestone dates. Any claims received with information missing will be returned to sender requesting the missing information and for the claim to be resubmitted.

We recommend that you keep your copy of the evidence in the order that you have submitted the codes on the claim form, and that you keep the whole claim/batch together with a copy of the funding claim form.

Where to email your claim

Please include your grant number and the total value of the claim in the subject. You will receive an automated acknowledgement that your claim has been received when sent to this inbox:

directaccess.wdf@skillsforcare.org.uk

Always make sure that you check your claim before submitting it, as incorrect or incomplete claims cannot be accepted.

Important information to note for 2021-22

- In 2021-22, claims can be made for completion of apprenticeship standards.
 Guidance is available online.
- Under RQF the name used for the qualifications may vary between awarding organisations and may differ from the Skills for Care specifications. Employers are advised to check that the learning is funded prior to commissioning it by checking the qualification number (QAN) against the list of funded qualification and learning programmes.

- Skills for Care only funds RQF diplomas which have been developed to, and approved against our minimum specifications. Please refer to the funded qualifications and learning document on the Skills for Care website for a comprehensive list of funded qualifications/learning.
- The final apprenticeship standard certificate (end point assessment) can be claimed in conjunction with Levels 2 5 diplomas completed within the apprenticeship standard. The evidence to claim for the apprenticeship standard (following completion of end point assessment) is a certificate issued by the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education (IfATE) only, please check that the certificate displays their logo below.



 The submission of a declaration form/signing of a grant letter does not constitute submitting a claim. To make a claim, please read all emails from Skills carefully and ensure all instructions given are actioned.

Dates for the diary

- A Direct Access declaration form needs to be submitted to Skills for Care by the 28 February 2022.
- Claims can be submitted up to 17:00 on 31 May 2022.
- An establishment must fully complete and update ASC-WDS records after the 1 April 2021, but before 17:00 on 31 March 2022. Any date extensions to the deadline for claims being submitted will not affect this deadline unless specifically noted.

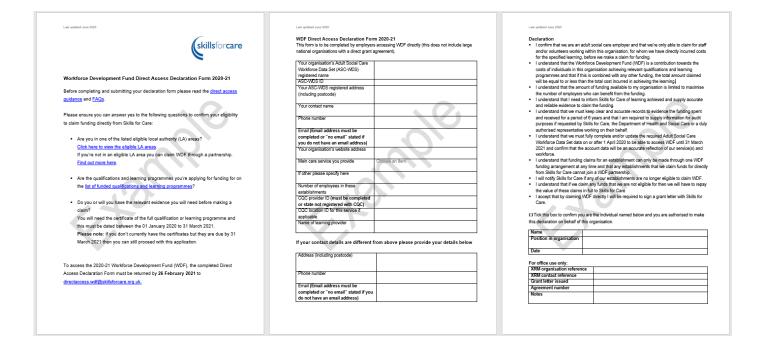
Useful Links

- For general guidance and WDF forms www.skillsforcare.org.uk/wdf
- Details of the qualifications and learning that will be funded www.skillsforcare.org.uk/WDFquals
- For more information on ASC-WDS go to <u>www.skillsforcare.org.uk/asc-wds</u>.
 To register, or update your data https://asc-wds.skillsforcare.org.uk/login

Appendices

Appendix 1 - WDF Direct Access Declaration Form

When the 2021/22 scheme launches, a copy of the declaration form (as a pdf) will be available on our website. If an organisation is registering more than one establishment with Skills for Care, they can list the establishment details on the fourth page. (Below is an example of what the form will look like, the only change will be an update to dates to reflect 2021/22 funding year).



Appendix 2 - WDF Claim Submission Form

		skillsforc
Workforce Development	Fund Grant Holde	r Claim Submission Form
This form is to be completed (WDF) and is to be signed of		submission made for the Workforce Development nominated administrator.
Grant number		
Total value of qualifications and apprenticeships	Number	Makes (C)
Total value of learning programmes and digital modules	Number	Walso 80
Total value of claim	E	
Number of funding claim forms If you prefer to use your own Checklist	covering letter, please	e include all the above information.
forms If you prefer to use your own Checklist Has the claim formits Have you identified a form? Does the evidence you The amounts above were programmestig fall modules I confirm that the details give	been fully completed and indicated any learn ou have reviewed and incurred by the can as detailed on the att	17 hing that is part of an apprenticeshyp on your claim I retained meet the evidence requirements? didates on the completed qualifications/fearning
forms If you prefer to use your own Checklist Has the claim form/s Have you identified a form? Does the evidence you The amounts above were programmestig fall modules. I confirm that the details give	been fully completed and indicated any learn ou have reviewed and incurred by the can as detailed on the att	If that is part of an apprenticeship on your claim I retained meet the evidence requirements? didates on the completed qualifications/learning ached claim form(s).

Appendix 3 - Scenario 1

You wish to access WDF directly from Skills for Care. You believe you have updated the ASC-WDS and completed a declaration form showing the establishment details. However, you have still not been sent a funding claim form. In this case you should log back on to your ASC-WDS account and use the in-browser option which allows you to check whether your account is meeting the requirements for WDF.

The following checklist could help you establish the reason that an establishment is not appearing:

- Have you submitted a 2021-22 direct access declaration form including details of the establishment?
- Have you completed and signed a grant letter?
- Have you accessed your ASC-WDS in-browser tool to ascertain WDF eligibility?