

How individual employers and personal assistants can benefit from the user led organisation fund

This guidance provides information on the user led organisation (ULO) / disabled people's organisation (DPO) fund based on the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) [guidelines](#).

The fund is being administered by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) on behalf of the DHSC. It was previously administered by Skills for Care.

What is the ULO / DPO fund?

This fund supports ULOs / DPOs to deliver tailored training for:

- individual employers (IEs)
- prospective IEs
- personal assistants (PAs) both employed and self-employed personal assistants (SEPAs)
- prospective PAs.

The training helps ensure the delivery of care and support is personalised, flexible, and responsive to each person's needs.

How the funding supports IEs and PAs

Although this funding is only available for ULOs / DPOs to apply for, IEs and PAs benefit directly through accessing the training that your local ULO / DPO will be offering and apply for multiple training courses.

How to access training

IEs and PAs can contact their local ULO / DPO to discuss their training and development needs or contact their [Skills for Care Locality Manager](#) in the area to find out more information on their local ULO / DPO.



ULOs / DPOs will:

- assess whether they meet the identified training needs
- identify common needs across PAs to shape their training offer.

Where there is sufficient demand ULOs / DPOs will:

- apply for funding through the NHSBSA
- deliver tailored training to IEs and PAs once their funding is approved.

ULOs / DPOs will also develop and deliver ongoing training programmes based on the needs they identify locally, ensuring support is relevant, responsive, and personalised.

Some examples of what ULOs / DPOs have offered in the past:

- core or mandatory training such as basic life support, fire safety, moving and handling, health and safety
- training programmes for PAs supporting individuals with neuromuscular conditions
- British Sign Language (BSL) and deafblind communication skills
- mental health and wellbeing
- introduction to being a PA
- cooking
- makaton
- IT skills
- supervision skills.

ULO / DPO application timeframe

- application window opens for ULOs / DPOs to apply for funding – Monday 1 June
- application window closes – Sunday 26 July
- applicants notified of outcome – Monday 31 August to Wednesday 9 September
- training available for IEs and PAs early September 2026.

To learn more about the ULO / DPO fund visit the [NHSBSA website](#).

What IEs and PAs need to do

- identify training or support needs
- engage with a local ULO / DPO or through your [Skills for Care locality manager](#) to support a ULO / DPO funding application
- take part in agreed training or development activities.

