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.

Visit the NHSBSA ULO training hub to access training offers.

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.

All training if fully funded.

Not all ULOs / DPOs will apply for the ULO funding.

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 multiple training local ULO / DPO are offering.

How ULOs / DPOs support training needs

ULOs / DPOs will:

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

- develop and deliver ongoing training offers based on the needs they identify locally, ensuring support is relevant, responsive, and personalised.

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.

Some examples of training offered in the past:

- core or mandatory training such as basic life support, fire safety, moving and handling, health and safety
- training offers 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.

What IEs and PAs need to do

- Identify training or support needs.
- Engage with a local ULO or DPO or Skills for Care locality manager to discuss your needs and help inform their funding application.
- Provide feedback on training priorities with your local ULO or DPO to understand local demand and shape future training offers.
- Explore the NHSBSA ULO training hub to explore existing training and development.

By sharing your training needs and engaging with local organisations, you can help ensure future training offers are relevant and tailored to local needs.

Accessing training

Training offers will be organised by geographical area, making it easier for IEs and PAs to find local training and development offers.

Although training is organised by region, we encourage IEs and PAs to also explore opportunities outside their local area as selected ULOs / DPOs offer online training offers.

Visit the NHSBSA ULO training hub to access training offers.

