

Business signposting

Business funding / apprenticeships

Enterprise Loans Pilot

Available later this year for young people between 18-24

A pilot programme of Enterprise Loans to help young people set up and grow their own businesses, building on the support Enterprise Allowance

Youth Contract

Available from April 2012

All who have the capacity and willingness to participate, but note that Apprenticeship incentives only open to SMEs taking on apprentices for the first time.

160,000 payments are available of £2,275 each

Government is putting in £940 million in total over three years from April 2012.

For employers who recruit an 18-24 year-old from the Work Programme – this is more than enough to cover an employer's National Insurance contributions for employing a young person for a year

There's also extra support through Jobcentre Plus for all 18-24 year olds, consisting of weekly, rather than fortnightly signing, extra advisor time to provide more back to work support and referral to a careers interview from the National Careers Service.

www.dwp.gov.uk/youth-contract/key-initiatives/#wage-incentives

AGE Employer Incentive

Small firms taking on their first apprentice aged 16-24, where these are new jobs

Scheme runs until March 2013

Aims to help employers to offer young people employment through the Apprenticeship programme, by providing wage grants to assist employers in recruiting their first apprentice.

The £1,500 is in addition to the training costs of the Apprenticeship framework which are met in full for young people aged 16 to 18 and 50% for those aged 19 to 24

National Apprenticeship Service

www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/Steps-to-make-it-happen/Incentive.aspx

Regional Growth Fund

Available for private companies or public private partnerships in England

Whole fund is £2.4 billion 2011-2015

AVAILABE NOW. For >£1m apply to BIS, submit bids before noon on 13 June 2012

Companies or consortia planning to create or safeguard jobs in England, looking for over £1m can apply to BIS directly- at least equal private funding is needed.

Some successful bidders from past rounds are running RGF programmes which businesses can directly access, such as RBS, HSBC, Plymouth University etc.

For bids over £1m: www.bis.gov.uk/rgf

For smaller bids, contact successful programmes

New Enterprise Allowance

Available for unemployed people in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance for 6 months or more.

Jobseekers who participate in the New Enterprise Allowance work with a volunteer business mentor who provides them with guidance and support as they develop their business idea and supports them through the early stages of trading.

Claimant has to demonstrate a viable business idea with growth potential. The financial support consists of a weekly allowance payable over 26 weeks worth up to £1,274 - allowing them to establish their business and cash flow – and if they need start-up capital they may also apply for an unsecured loan of up to £1,000 to help them with start-up costs such as buying their initial equipment.

Weekly allowance payable for up to 16 weeks and access to a low cost loan of up to £1000 to help with start up costs.

Available NOW

Jobcentre Plus

www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/new-enterprise-allowance/

Technology based SME development of new products/ services

Open to innovative SME's

Available NOW

Technology Strategy Board

www.innovateuk.org/

National Loan Guarantee Scheme

Open to SMEs with turnovers below £50m

Discounted loans

The Government will provide up to £20 billion of guarantees to banks on their unsecured debt in return for a fee; this makes it cheaper for the participating banks to borrow. Banks will pass on the entire benefit they receive to smaller businesses. Businesses that take out an NLGS loan will receive a discount on their loan of one percentage point compared to the interest rate they would otherwise have received from that bank outside the scheme.

Available NOW

Banks

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/nlgs

Business Finance Partnership

Available to organisations looking to lend to businesses

The BFP will invest an initial £1.2bn in loan funds alongside private sector co-investors (with further funds to follow if the scheme proves even more successful than anticipated). These funds will invest in mid-sized businesses, creating new channels of finance for them. The BFP will encourage the creation of new channels of credit for mid-sized businesses, reducing their reliance on traditional bank relationships. The Government has also invited the first round of proposals to help businesses access non-bank finance through the BFP, and will allocate £100 million of the BFP to invest through non-traditional lending channels that can reach smaller businesses, which could include peer-to-peer platforms and supply chain financing.

Bids to a pot worth £1.2bn

Request for SME-focused proposals will be issued by the end of May.

HM Treasury

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_sector_banking_business_lending.htm

Community Development Finance Initiatives (CDFI)

Available to unsuccessful Loan applicants from disadvantaged communities.

These are loans available NOW.

Funding available from CDFIs directly

Via CDFIs www.cdfa.org.uk for a list of CDFIs near you

Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme

Available to SMEs with turnover below £200K

From April 2012, Government will introduce the new Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS), providing income tax relief of 50% for individuals who invest in shares in qualifying seed companies. The Government will also offer a capital gains tax (CGT) holiday: gains realised on the disposal of assets in 2012–13 that are invested through SEIS in the same year will be exempt from CGT.

The relief will apply to shares issued on or after 6 April 2012.

Via HMRC

www.hmrc.gov.uk/tiin/tiin600.pdf

Enterprise Investment Scheme

Available for most unquoted trading companies with less than 50 employees.

Available NOW

From April 2012, the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) annual investment limit for individuals will be increased to £1 million. The qualifying company limits will be increased to companies with fewer than 250 employees and gross assets before investment of £15 million and a post-investment gross assets limit of £16 million, and the annual investment limit for qualifying companies will increase to £5 million under both EIS and Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs), subject to State aid approval.

From April 2012, Government will remove some restrictions on qualifying shares and types of investor for EIS and the £1 million limit on investment by a VCT in a single company (except for companies in a partnership or a joint venture). For both EIS and VCTs, Government will also introduce a new disqualifying purpose test to exclude companies set up for the purpose of accessing relief, exclude acquisition of shares by a qualifying company in another company and exclude investment in some Feed-in Tariff businesses.

Via HMRC

www.hmrc.gov.uk/eis/

Venture Capital Trusts

Available to most companies with less than 50 employees, less than £7m gross assets before investment and less than £8m after.

Appendix 4

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Available NOW

Via HMRC

www.hmrc.gov.uk/eis/

Business Angel Co-Investment Fund

Available to investment in angel syndicate to provide funding for eligible SMEs.

The £50m Business Angel Co-Investment Fund aims to support angel investments into high growth potential early stage SMEs, particularly in areas worst affected by public spending cuts.

Available NOW

Approach a fund - visit: www.angelcofund.co.uk/

Enterprise Capital Funds

Available to SMEs (EU definition).

Enterprise Capital Funds provides more than £300m of venture capital investment into the equity gap for early stage innovative SMEs with the highest growth potential.

Available NOW

Approach ECF fund manager See:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-capital-funds

Enterprise Finance Guarantee

Appendix 4

Available to SMEs with turnovers below £41m.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee facilitates loans to viable businesses lacking security or track record for a commercial loan.

By providing the lenders with a 75% guarantee on individual loans, the government facilitates lending that would not otherwise take place. Risk is shared between lender, borrower, and the government.

Loans are available for a number of reasons including working capital, investment, and re-financing.

The Government will incentivise lenders to lend more to smaller businesses under the EFG scheme, by raising the level of lenders' EFG portfolios to which the Government guarantee applies from 13% to 20 % for 2012/13.

Loans & overdrafts

Available NOW

Banks www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-finance-guarantee