

Islington Childcare Bursary Scheme for Entrepreneurs

Guidance Note

Childcare costs can be a real challenge for parents wanting to start up in business, particularly in the early stages before the business becomes firmly established and starts bringing in a steady income. As part of our enhanced Childcare Bursary Scheme, launched in April 2022, we have introduced a Childcare Bursary Scheme for Entrepreneurs, targeted at those parents who are in the early stages of setting up as entrepreneurs and who would otherwise be excluded by child-caring responsibilities.

Eligibility Criteria

A person can apply for a Childcare Bursary through our Entrepreneurship Scheme if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are an Islington resident
- Have a child aged 0-16 (or up to 18 with disabilities) who needs childcare
- Have no alternative to paid childcare and cannot get childcare funding by any other means
- Have sourced registered childcare, either within or outside of Islington
- Have a National Insurance number
- Have registered their enterprise on Companies House
- Can demonstrate evidence of being part of an accredited entrepreneurship programme or trading as an enterprise
- Have a business plan established for how they will use the time around childcare to support and grow their business.

What costs can the Childcare Bursary for Entrepreneurs cover?

The funding will support childcare through official providers, allowing entrepreneurs to:

- Work on their business
- Join accredited entrepreneurship programmes

- Prepare for further business growth
- Cover childcare costs while a parent undergoes enterprise training through an established provider, including Islington Council entrepreneurship programmes or partners.

The support will reflect the specific needs and challenges faced when trying to establish a business.

The Entrepreneur Childcare Bursary Scheme will provide longer term support, offering up to 2 days childcare per week for the first year, reflecting the length of time and effort it can take to set up in business.

It will support entrepreneurs to fulfil the requirements of their programme, proactively grow their business, and designate time to start-up activities like pitching.

Applications

The Childcare Bursary Scheme for Entrepreneurs will recruit entrepreneurs through Islington Council's partner channels, including:

- Affordable workspaces in the Borough (Space4, Better Space, Town Sq, Finsbury Business Centre)
- Islington Council's business recovery programme delivery partners (Action for Race Equality, Black Pound Day, Cooperate Islington, B Consultancy)
- Local entrepreneurial programmes (Start-up Club, Impact Hub)
- Islington Community Centres with enterprise programmes (St Luke's, Soapbox, The Peel)
- Internal Islington Council outreach teams (LIFT, iWork, VCS, Local Economies).

Applications and decisions relating to the Entrepreneur Childcare Bursary Scheme will be managed by the Strategic Programmes and Partnerships Team within the Inclusive Economy and Jobs service.

Once a payment has been made, payment will be made, by the Strategic Programmes and Partnership Team, directly to childcare provider on receipt of an invoice.

Further information

Further information about the Islington Childcare Bursary Scheme, and how to apply, are set out on the Council's website at:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/help-with-childcare-costs/childcare-bursary>

The website also includes a link to a simple calculator to help parents work out whether they will be better off in work.