



# Grants available for councils taking on construction apprentices

To: All English email contacts

## **Key issues**

Further support for apprentices from Government  
Grants of upto £1,000 available for councils

### **1. Introduction**

Councils provide a range of training opportunities and construction related apprenticeships are one of the most beneficial schemes for the individual apprentice, the council and the wider community.

The National Apprenticeship Service was announced in January 2008 and officially launched in April 2009. Reporting to the Departments for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the service will drive forward the Government's ambition for Apprenticeships. The service aims to bring about a significant growth in the number of employers offering Apprenticeships.

## **2. Grant availability**

ConstructionSkills, the sector skills Council for the construction industry, has secured £1m worth of funding from the National Apprenticeship Service in a bid to help displaced apprentices secure employment. Grants of up to £1,000 are available to councils that provide employment to displaced apprentices in last 12 months of programme.

The sum was awarded to help support organisations that are taking on apprentices who have been laid off in the downturn. Councils will be eligible to apply for financial support of up to £1,000 if they provide apprenticeship employment to displaced apprentices nearing the end of their framework.

Funding is available for those in the last 12 months of their apprenticeship. It is hoped at least 800 extra trainees across the UK will benefit from this new funding. Just 31% of the 2,408 displaced apprentices managed by ConstructionSkills have been re-employed so far.

It is hoped the money will serve as an incentive for more employers to support the skills body's apprenticeship matching service (AMS), which helps employers hold onto their apprentices, or where this is not possible, match displaced apprentices with new employers.

The publicity surrounding the announcement of these grants referred only to private companies but APSE has found out that councils are also eligible to apply.

APSE has previously worked with ConstructionSkills and the Construction Youth Trust to provide grants to Councils who had taken on female and ethnic minority apprentices in construction-related jobs.

Further information can be found at [www.cskills.org](http://www.cskills.org).

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