

Eligibility

1. In its broadest sense, Flexible Support Fund (FSF) will support a wide range of people who engage with DWP programmes and services. However, it is important to note that in some regards much tighter eligibility criteria will apply. WC teams must, therefore, **always** check subject specific guidance to ensure eligibility is met before making an award or payment.
 2. Returning to FSF in its broadest sense, the fund **may** support anyone awarded a qualifying benefit **except** those participating in:
 - Work Programme (WP)
 - Work and Health Programme (WHP) (with the exception of those customers in the Districts operating the DWP Public Sector Comparison Pilot where FSF can be considered)
 - Fair Start Scotland
 - Work Choice
 - residential training
 - community work placement
 - Specialist Employability Support (SES)
 3. The qualifying benefits are:
 - Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
 - Income Support (IS)
 - Incapacity Benefit (IB)
 - Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
 - Universal Credit (UC)
 - Carers Allowance (CA)
 - Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)
 - Pension Credit (PC)
- Note:** 'Credits only' claimants and claimants who have a sanction imposed on their claim are eligible to support from the FSF.
4. FSF **may** also support anyone eligible for Work Preparation Support for lone parents and carers, and Work Preparation Support for partners guidance
 5. FSF **may** also support other unemployed people who meet one of the following criteria:
 - aged 16 or 17 and Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
 - awarded one of the following:
 - Housing Benefit (HB)
 - Bereavement Allowance (BA)
 - Child Tax Credit (CTC)
 - Maternity Allowance (MA)
 - Widowed Parent's Allowance (WPA)
 - Child Benefit (including Guardian's Allowance) (CB)
 6. FSF **may** also support people that meet one of the following criteria:
 - receiving Jobcentre Plus support under formal partnership arrangements
 - receiving Jobcentre Plus support under Rapid Response funding
 - receiving support from a DEA, but only in the circumstances described in GP and Hospital Consultant Fees and Travel to Interview for Disabled People
 - Lone Parents (LPs) in employment, but only in the circumstances described in the In Work Emergency Payments for Lone Parents guidance.