

Funding available to FIS members

CITB Grants and how to claim - the CITB Grants Scheme provides funding for CITB-registered employers to train, upskill and qualify their staff. This ensures that the right skills are available to help the construction industry grow and that standards are maintained on site.

Employers can claim a grant once the training has been completed. All CITB-registered employers can claim a grant, including those that don't need to pay levy but those paying levy must be up-to-date with their levy payments to qualify.

What grants are available:

[View the grants available](#) in the 2016/2017 Grants Scheme year.

There are grants for a wide range of training and qualifications.

Grant claims can also be submitted for training completed and achievements awarded within the [2015/16 Grants Scheme year](#) until 31 October 2016.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) - Unlocking Business Investment

39 Local Enterprise Partnerships were created to replace the Regional Development Agencies by the coalition Government in England. The LEP programme 'Unlocking Business Investment' began life as a programme selected on a competitive basis, by the Government's Regional Growth Fund Ministerial Panel in Autumn 2012 and extended in July 2013.

The purpose of the programme was to 'unlock' direct business investment, principally within SMEs, the footprint of which must be sustainable, private sector employment throughout. The Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Department for Transport have created the £730 million Growing Places Fund. The fund is used by LEP's to support infrastructure.

Access to Finance is a key priority for all LEP's and featured prominently in the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan and EU Structural and Investment Funds Strategy (ESIF Strategy). Looking forward the LEP's roles are to:

- develop a suite of financial instruments to address areas of market failure
- better coordinate these products (and provide investment readiness support) through Growth Hubs.

Getting involved: companies looking to secure external finance are encouraged to contact their local Growth Hubs. Contact email and phone numbers for your local Growth Hub can be found here: <https://www.lepnetwork.net/growth-hubs/>