

Funding Information and Guidance July 2023



Support in the
Right Direction



Easy Read Version

Introduction



Good social care plays a big part in improving people's lives and their wellbeing.



People and carers who can get social care support in Scotland should have choice and control over the type of support they want. They should be able to say who gives it and how.



The Scottish Government has funded different organisations to help people to organise their social care. This help is known as 'independent support'.



Support in the Right Direction (SiRD) is a national programme which gives funding to independent support services. The programme is funded by Scottish Government and Inspiring Scotland manage it for them.



This document tells how organisations can apply for funding to deliver independent support activities between April 2024 and March 2027.



It has information on who can apply and what will be funded. There is also guidance on how to complete the application form, what information to include and how decisions will be made.

Support in the Right Direction (SiRD) Programme 2024-2027




The SiRD programme will continue to fund independent support for families and carers. We have made some changes to make the programme better.

The aim of SiRD 2024-2027



The aim is to make sure that people who use social care have access to independent support, advice, and advocacy, wherever they live in Scotland.

SiRD 2024-2027 Outcomes



Outcomes	
1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SiRD will support people and carers. This has been summarised in four outcomes. These are:



1. Supported people and carers know about self-directed support and options for their social care.



2. Supported people and carers feel able to take part in social care assessments and reviews.



3. Supported people and carers feel involved and have choice when planning their social care support.



4. Supported people and carers feel more confident to manage their social care package.

SiRD 2024-27 Activities



To be able to reach the outcomes and meet the programme aim, a full range of support activities will be funded across Scotland.



Funded independent support services will give information, support, and advice at any point of someone's social care journey. This may be before, during and after they have had a social work assessment or review.

SiRD 2024-2027 Application Details



Independent support services can now apply for SiRD funding to deliver independent support between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2027.

Who can apply



To be able to apply for funding you should be based in your local community, and:

- Be a not-for-profit organisation.
- Be operating in Scotland.
- Be a limited company. We think this is the best way for an organisation to operate.
- Be properly registered if you are a company or charity.



We particularly want applications from user-led groups who have successfully delivered an independent support service, or know a lot about social care, the law and principles.

Working in partnership



If there are other organisations in your local area that give independent support, and who may apply for SiRD funding, we recommend that you discuss a proposal with them.



A partnership application is an option or organisations may apply separately and deliver different parts of the independent support activities.

What can be applied for

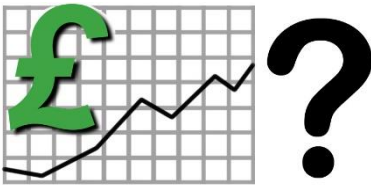


Organisations can apply for all the costs needed to deliver the service. This includes staff costs and service running costs. You can also apply for small items of equipment needed to deliver the service.

Funding length and amount available



Funding will be available for three financial years for services to be delivered between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2027.



The total funding each year will be agreed by the Scottish Government based on the annual budget. The Fund will be about the same as the current SiRD programme and will give funding of around £3 million a year.

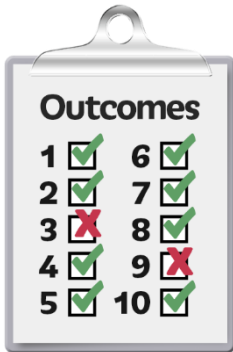


As the programme aim is to make sure people get independent support wherever they live across Scotland we will need to look at funding in different local areas. We think there will be a **maximum of £100,000 per year for each local authority area.**

How funding decisions will be made



All applications we get will be assessed on how well they meet the funding check-list:



- **Fits with the fund aim, outcomes, and activities.**

The funded services must support people in a range of ways to meet the fund outcomes (see page 3).



- **Has experience of delivering an independent support service for people who use social care.**

Applicants must show they have experience of giving independent support to help people understand about their rights and options with self-directed support.

OR



Applicants who do not deliver independent support already and who are applying to fill a gap in service provision must show that they know about social care, the law and principles.



- **Fit in with local needs.**

Applicants should give information about their local area and how their service fits into it. This information should cover how organisations work with other independent support services locally, and the relationship applicants have with local organisations.



- **People who use independent support and/or social care are involved in developing the service.**

Applicants will be asked how the people who use the independent support were involved in making the application. We will also ask how service users are involved in running the organisation.



- **A proper budget has been made.**

Applicants will have to show that they have planned a budget for the service. It should be clear what SiRD funds will be spent on. All staff funded through SiRD will need to be paid at least the Living Wage.



- **The applicant organisation is properly managed and is financially stable.**

Applicants will need to show they have good leadership and management which involves the people they are supporting. Staff should have the proper skills and the organisation should be financially stable.

Funding priorities



Applications will also be assessed on how well they meet funding priorities.

Funding priorities are:



- The service will give a full range of accessible, independent support for all social care users in a local authority area.

OR



- The service will fill any gaps to make sure there is a full range of accessible independent support for all social care users in that local authority area.



Along with this, extra priority will be given to services that will target groups of people who need extra help to access independent support.



This can include people with dementia, autism, addictions, mental health conditions, or sensory loss; people from black and ethnic minority communities; unpaid carers; and young people in transition from children's services.



The Fund aim is for everyone to have access to independent support, wherever they live in Scotland. To achieve this with the resources available, we will probably only fund one service (or two who will work together) in each local authority area.

Assessment and decision making



Inspiring Scotland will assess applications based on the information given. Please give as much information as possible in your application. Use the information under each application question as a guide to what information we want to get in your application answers.



We may contact you if we need more information or want to know more about your proposed service. Do not be concerned if you are not contacted with follow-up questions.



Funding decisions will be made by a panel including staff from Self Directed Support Scotland, the Scottish Government Self-Directed Support Improvement Team and independent organisations with knowledge and understanding of social care.

Pre-application support



Surgery sessions: Inspiring Scotland will be offering 30-minute sessions during July and August if you would like to talk about your proposal before applying. You should book an appointment if you are not sure if you should apply or if your proposal fits with the Fund aim and priorities.



To book a session please email to sirdenquiries@inspiringscotland.org.uk



Frequently asked questions: We will gather frequently asked questions and will send answers to all those who get an application form. These will also be on our website.

How to apply



Expression of Interest: To apply for funding, you first need to express your interest by completing this short form:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7393720/Support-in-the-Right-Direction-Fund-2023-Expression-of-Interest>.



Application form: If you can apply, you will be sent a link to complete an online application form. If you are unable to apply using an online form, please contact sirdenquiries@inspiringscotland.org.uk



As part of the online application, you will be asked to upload:

- A copy of your most recent audited accounts.
- A full budget for your proposal. In your budget you should include all staff costs as well as a breakdown of any budget headings that are over £5000.





Application questions: You will be asked questions on the online form. They will also be sent to you in a Microsoft Word format so you can prepare your answers in advance.



Deadline for applications: All applications must be submitted in full by **MIDDAY on Friday 15th September 2023.**



Please note the **midday** deadline. This is needed to make sure staff are available if there are any last-minute requests for help.

Important dates



SiRD 2024-2027 fund opens for applications:

12th July 2023

Pre application support provided:

July - August 2023

Application deadline:

15th September 2023

Assessment:

September – November 2023

Assessment decisions:

December 2023



Funding decisions announced:

December 2023

Funding starts:

1st April 2024