

## Cheshire and Warrington Access to Finance and Grant Programme

The Cheshire and Warrington Access to Finance and Grant programme will support eligible small and medium-sized enterprises until December 2021 offering, grants that enable investment to help your business stimulate growth and achieve their ambitions.

Grants work out at approx.33% of your overall consultancy project, up to a maximum value of £15,000 grant. To help illustrate what funding you could get, please see the following illustrations:

Consultancy Project Size Excluding VAT	Grant available
£ 6,000.00	£ 1,980.00
£ 10,000.00	£ 3,300.00
£ 15,000.00	£ 4,950.00
£ 20,000.00	£ 6,600.00
£ 30,000.00	£ 9,900.00
£ 40,000.00	£ 13,200.00
£ 45,000.00	£ 14,850.00

**Grants can be used for consultancy only, and for projects that will result in growth for the business. This could include, but is not restricted to:**

Marketing Strategy	eCommerce	Software integration
Sales Strategy	Consultancy to prepare for ISO or other accreditations	Strategic
Financial planning	Restructuring	Launching new products/ services

**Please take note of the following criteria:**

1. This is a reimbursement grant, so you must have the cash flow to fund your project initially. You can claim back the grant after the project has been paid for by you.
2. This grant does not work retrospectively, only for projects once you receive a grant offer letter
3. Your business must be trading, i.e. not in pre-start stage.

**The process for applying for the grant is as follows:**

**Stage 1:** Enquiry into Blue Orchid, initial conversation about project ideas they are looking to implement and business need – enquire here: [www.blueorchid.co.uk/a2fgrant](http://www.blueorchid.co.uk/a2fgrant)

**Stage 2:** You will be sent an initial grant application form and intended outcomes and impact on your business

**Stage 3:** Once your application is reviewed and approved by our panel, you will complete a procurement exercise to seek at least 3 quotes for the work and choose their preferred supplier. We will help you with this

**Stage 4:** We will then issue a grant offer letter and at this point the project can commence and you can start paying your chosen suppliers

**Stage 5:** Once the project is completed and paid for, you will submit a claim form for 33% of the costs

**Stage 6:** Blue Orchid, on receipt of the claim form pay the grant to the client.

### Eligibility:

- The business is trading address is in the Cheshire or Warrington LEP area
- The business has less than 249 FTE employees
- The business is independent (less than 25% owned by one or more external organisations)
- The business has a turnover or balance sheet of less than Euro 50 million (approx. £35m) (collective if part owned)
- **Is not** a business in one of the following sectors: Fishery and aquaculture, Retail; Primary Production, Processing and marketing of agricultural products, Coal, steel and shipbuilding, Synthetic fibres production, Establishments providing generalised (school age) education, Banking and Finance Companies, Nuclear sector.