

Peer Networks

Frequently Asked Questions



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Background

Peer Networks is a peer-to-peer networking programme for SME leaders that want to grow and develop their organisation for future success.

There are places available for West of England businesses who have operated for over 1 year, have a turnover of over £100,000 per annum and more than 5 PAYE employees.

You can use this programme to:

- Overcome business challenges and act on new opportunities
- Build a trusted network of connections to support you now and in the future
- Improve your long-term personal and business performance
- Receive support to help you tackle the short-term issues that are affecting your business now, including those related to Covid.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where does my business need to be based?

The grant can be awarded to businesses that are based in the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) region. The WECA region is Bath and North East Somerset, City of Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

When we say ‘based’ we mean those that are trading from a registered business address here, employing people locally.

My business would have been eligible before the impact of Covid-19, can I join the programme?

If your business turnover and/or employee count have been impacted by Covid-19 and would have otherwise been eligible in the 12 months prior to March 2020, please contact wearegrowth@westofengland-ca.gov.uk, we will review these on a case by case basis.

I work in the creative industries and only hire freelancers/associates, can we include them in our employee count?

Flexibility is provided for the number of employees in creative industry businesses, which can include associates/freelancers. This exemption only applies to the creative industries and does not include sub-contractors or cover any other sectors.

We are defining an associate (the term Freelancers is common in the creative industries sector) as someone who “Pays their own self-employment taxes and doesn’t have any employees”. They are typically not a LTD organisation, and we are also excluding partnership organisations.

Can I have multiple people from my organisation participate in Peer Networks?

Only one person from a business or organisation can participate in the programme

I have previously participated in Peer Networks, can I join a 2021-22 cohort?

Unfortunately, Peer Networks is not open to those who participated in a 2020-21 cohort.

Further Information

For more information on Peer Networks, please e-mail: wearegrowth@westofengland-ca.gov.uk and will respond to your enquiry within 48 hours.

If you are unable to e-mail us, please call our Growth Hub team on: 0117 456 6955