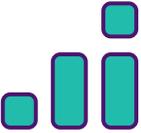




- East of Scotland Investment Fund
- Market Development Fund
- Expert Help

Plus access to other financial support schemes

 **FIFE INVESTMENT FUND**
Financial assistance for Fife Businesses



Purpose

Fife Investment Fund provides financial assistance to help local businesses develop and grow.

Who can apply

If your business employs up to 50 people in manufacturing, business to business services or tourism, then you could be eligible for support/financial assistance of up to £5,000 to assist a development project that otherwise could not go ahead.

Criteria for support

To be considered for business support/financial assistance you will need to demonstrate that the funding will bring an economic benefit to Fife such as increased turnover or the creation of new jobs.

Use of the support

There are many ways in which the assistance can be used to ensure that a wide range of companies can benefit. There are more details overleaf - why not see how your business might benefit from a little extra help?

Exclusions

Businesses providing private health care, agriculture, property development and consultancies are not eligible for the scheme. Professional practices can only be considered if demonstrating significant project management work is undertaken on behalf of other businesses.

How to apply

To find out how to apply, and for full conditions for the Fife Investment Fund, contact a business adviser on:

01592 858333 or email:
success@bgfife.co.uk



How you can use the Fife Investment Fund



Plant and Machinery

Assistance to buy machinery, its associated installation costs and training of operators where this increases the technological capabilities of your business.

Property Improvements

If the investment will improve the capacity or efficiency of your property, assistance with costs such as professional advice, building work, associated plumbing, electrical work and redecorating are eligible. Redecoration work alone is not eligible. The business must own the property or have a lease for a minimum of three years.

Product Development

Financial assistance is available to help with the development of new products or services. You must demonstrate that there is a potential market for the new product or service and have a plan which outlines that your business could cope with the potential new market opportunity. Development of software products for resale may also be considered.

Help with professional advice, prototype production and development of pre-production and production tooling may also be considered, but the cost of patenting and other intellectual property protection is not eligible.

Process Improvement

If the development of new production processes could help your business growth potential, then you may access funding to help with professional advice, design and purchase of specialist software and staff training. The cost of patenting and other intellectual property protection is not eligible.

Training

If you have made a capital investment in new plant, equipment, software or production processes, you may be able to get help with costs for providing employee training. Internal costs are not eligible.



More Help for Businesses

Market Development Programme

Market development grants are available to assist businesses exhibit at trade shows and participate in overseas trade missions. Help is available towards exhibition space or stand rentals, as well as advertising and graphics which are directly related to the show. For UK exhibitions (outside Fife) and overseas exhibitions, funding of up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of £2,000 may be available. Travel, accommodation and meals costs are not eligible. Trade missions to overseas markets, arranged by organisations like the Chamber of Commerce, SCDI or SDI, can attract 50% of travel and accommodation costs to a maximum of £2,000.

East of Scotland Investment Fund

The East of Scotland Investment Fund is a consortium of ten Local Authorities working together to provide loans to new and growing businesses in the East of Scotland. Loans of up to £50,000 are available to all businesses, with a five year maximum repayment period. Loans may be used for purchase of plant and equipment, working capital, refurbishment or expansion of commercial property or the purchase of a business.

Expert Help Services

If you are planning to increase your turnover by around £200k over the next 3 years, Expert Help from Business Gateway may allow you to access support from a specialist to develop strategies in selected business disciplines. Areas within your business for which advice can be obtained include; business investment, marketing, sales, leadership, quality, finance, environmental improvement and e.business.

DSL Business Finance

If you are a small business located in Central Scotland, including Fife, loans of £5,000 to £30,000 are available from DSL Business Finance, the not-for-profit business lender. DSL specialises in start-up and gap finance for small firms, charities and social enterprises which are unable to get funding from banks. DSL is an ethical lender; any profit it makes is ploughed back into providing loans for small firms rather than distributing to shareholders or paying staff bonuses.

Scottish Investment Bank (SIB)

The Scottish Investment Bank supports the development of private sector SME funding market to ensure both early stage and established businesses with growth and export potential have adequate access to growth capital.

Regional Selective Assistance

RSA encourages business to undertake investment that will directly result in the creation or safeguarding of jobs. The amount offered is dependent on the size of your business, location of the project and the assessment of how much is needed for the project to go ahead.

There are three tiers of assisted areas in Scotland reflecting different maximum levels of grant assistance potentially available.



For advice on how to apply for any of the support or financial assistance please call: **01592 858333** or email: **success@bgfife.co.uk**