Frequently asked questions

Question: What is the required eligibility for learners to attend a Multiply Course?
Answer: a learner must be a resident who lives within the West of England region (Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset), aged 19 and above on the start of learning, has not achieved a mathematics or numeracy qualification at level 2 (GCSE Maths or Functional Skills Level 2) or above.
Multiply programme will be following the same eligibility criteria as the current West of England Combined Authority Adult Education Performance Management Funding Rules: www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/employment-skills/funding-policies-guidance/

Question: If a learner already has a GCSE in maths, but has forgotten everything, can they still do the course?
Answer: Multiply is targeted at those adults who do not yet have a L2 maths qualification because we know that learners achieving a L2 maths qualification saw their wages increase by on average 13.7% and were 10% more likely to be in work after seven years, compared to those who do not. The L2 or below criteria will also support us to measure achievement through Multiply.

Question: What is the focus of Multiply?
Answer: The learner progression should be a key focus underpinning all Multiply provision, with the aim of encouraging learners from engagement onto more substantive forms of provision and maths qualification courses if appropriate, up to and including Level 2.

Question: Are people from Hong Kong with a British National Overseas (BNO) passport eligible for the Multiply programme?
Answer: The BNO visa is specific to Hong Kong nationals overseas. As Hong Kong is not part of the British Overseas Territories, individuals with this visa must still meet the 3-year ordinary residence rules in the UK – in the same way as other UK nationals – before being eligible for funding.

Question: What is the policy in relation to learners who may have an international qualifications above a level 2?
Answer: Learning Providers must undertake a NARIC comparison for the qualification achieved to determine if it's a level 2.

Question: Is the eligibility for participants subject to the employer's postcode or the learner's postcode?
Answer: Learners must be a resident of the West of England region, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. All Multiply provision delivery should be based within the West of England region.

Question: Can I deliver Multiply provision outside of the specified delivery locations within my grant offer letter?
Answer: Delivery outside of the prescribed regions as determined by the Grant Offer Letter may result in provision not being funded. If you wish to deliver in a different location, a change request must be submitted to the Multiply project team to review and approve.

Question: When does the year 2 funding complete?
Answer: 31st March 2024, any unspent funding will not roll forward to the next year.

Question: Can Multiply funding be used for funding qualifications other than numeracy?
Answer: Multiply funding should only be numeracy qualifications up to Level 2 (including FSQs/GCSE). Other qualifications are not an appropriate use of Multiply funding.

Question: Is there a minimum contract spend?
Answer: No, there is no minimum contract value.

Question: Is there a syllabus or guidance to deliver this programme?
Answer: For the first year of delivery there is no syllabus or guidance. We are looking for providers to demonstrate how they plan to deliver the outputs and outcomes of the programme in the West of England.

Question: Can the privacy notice be shortened?
Answer: This document cannot be shortened or simplified as it is a statutory document.

Question: Will there be a branding pack? Can we use the DfE's 'Multiply' logo?
Answer: A communications toolkit and branding guidelines are available through this link here: [Multiply campiagn: barnd guidelines and logos - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](#)

Question: What is the correct return for Multiply provision on the Individual Learner Record (ILR)?
Answer: The return for Multiply provision is: SOF 998, Funding model 99 and LDM code 385. Further information can be found on the [Provider support manual - gov.uk (ww.gov.uk)](#).

Question: Can apprentices access Multiply to support provision?
Answer: Apprentices can access non-qualification Multiply provision if that supports their existing study e.g. to boost learning or build confidence if they meet the Multiply eligibility requirements. Please note however, that any Multiply provision offered to apprentices cannot:

- Duplicate or replace numeracy learning that they are already accessing through their apprenticeship.
- Replicate vocational and other learning aims covered by the apprenticeship standard or framework.
- Offer career-related training that conflicts with the apprenticeship aims.
- Be taking place during the apprentices working hours. Where an apprentice has more than one job, working hours refers to the hours of the job the apprenticeship is linked to.

Question: Department for Education plan to launch a Digital platform, how will this link with Multiply?
Answer: We are not currently aware of the full details; we are aware it will be anticipated to launch in January - March 2023. We will provide more details as we receive them.

Question: Which sectors are we interested in for employers?
Answer: The sectors we are interested in supporting are those outlined in the specification document.

Question: Are the specifications for target participants, such as they should be unemployed and inactive for 6 months, strictly the only eligible participants to join the programme?
Answer: Eligibility criteria and participant we are looking target are outline in the specification document.

Question: Are we looking for online delivery?
Answer: We do not want only online delivery, we are happy to accept applications with a blended delivery , however there should be an explanation on how this will have the impact that the programme requires and support progression of the participant.

Question: If we do not know our exact delivery locations at this stage of development what should we put in the application documentation.
Answer: Providers should submit your best understanding of where provision will be delivered to enable us to understand the potential spread of provision across the West of England. We are aware that providers may wish to alter their delivery locations to respond to need, we can discuss this with successful applicants as and when this issue arises.

Definitions of terms used for Multiply reporting set by the Department of Education:

Intervention

The Multiply investment prospectus sets out a national menu of 10 interventions (pages 7 to 10). All planned provision that local areas set out in investment plans is either linked to one of these interventions or is an 'off menu' intervention.

Provision

Provision is any type of learning or engagement activity that local areas are funding or providing specifically as part of the Multiply programme. The overall provision aims to measurably improve adult functional numeracy levels in the local area.

Initiative

An initiative is a singular and specific piece of provision funded by Multiply. Provision is the overall learning or engagement activity that local areas are funding.

Substantive learning provision

Substantive learning provision is a formal or informal learning opportunity through which learners will measurably improve their functional numeracy. The provision may or may not lead to a qualification. Substantive learning provision will typically be at least 2 hours long. Learning providers should record learners who participate in substantive learning provision in the individualised learner record (ILR).

Outreach focused provision

Outreach focused provision is targeted at those in the local area who would benefit from Multiply funded learning. This is likely to be more informal and innovative activity and not typically classroom-based.

Examples are:
- using 'touchpoints' to reach out (for example, money advice, community or housing services)
- running a taster session or event.

Learning providers would not usually record these learners in the ILR. Instead, please ask to collect their name, post code and date of birth to allow for matching into the ILR as part of the evaluation activities.

Participating and participation

Participation is when a learner takes part in Multiply funded substantive learning provision. This learning may or may not lead to a qualification. Participation does not include people who engage with a Multiply initiative that aims to reach out or encourage people to improve their numeracy.

Learning providers should record these learners in the ILR.

Engaging and engagement

Engagement is when a person attends or takes part in outreach focused provision that aims to encourage people to improve their numeracy (for example, a one-hour taster session or workshop). Engagement does not include people who participate in formal or informal learning of over 2 hours.

Learning providers would not usually record these learners in the ILR. Instead, please ask to collect their name, post code and date of birth to allow for matching into the ILR as part of the evaluation activities.