Innovative Solutions Support
Application Guide – Unique Projects

Barriers, Solutions and Outcomes

What cohort of children with additional needs does this application aim to support?

Innovative Solutions Support is available to assist educators to include children with additional needs from specific cohorts. These cohorts are explained in more detail on p.8 of the ISP Guidelines. Use the check boxes to indicate the primary cohort that your application aims to support. If other cohorts are also involved use the comment box to provide additional information.

What are the barriers this project will address?

Outline the barriers to inclusion for children with additional needs that this project seeks to address here. These should align with the barriers to inclusion identified in your SIP and may include child-related, educator- related and/or service and community related barriers. See the Unique Projects Project Guide for further information about relevant barriers for this project type.

What is the impact of these barriers for children and educators?

Briefly describe how these barriers are impacting on the child/ren that this project aims to support in relation to their participation in the program and interaction with peers and on the educators' ability to be inclusive. Your response to this question should demonstrate the need for the support you are applying for.

What have you already done to try to address these barriers?

Briefly list other actions you have taken to address these barriers, outlining the results of these actions and why further support is now needed.

How will your Unique Project help to address these barriers?

Briefly explain how your Unique Project will address the barriers you have identified above. Your response to this question should help to show why your Unique Project is the best option to address your identified barriers and provide a rationale for the particular approach your project will take.

What are the intended outcomes of the project?

List the outcomes that you aim to achieve through this project i.e.: outline what will change as a result of implementing this project.

These outcomes should be specific to your service but must also align with the overall goals of the Inclusion Support Program i.e.: they should show how the project will increase inclusion outcomes for the specific child/children who the project aims to support in relation to their participation in the program and interaction with peers and how the project will increase the capacity of educators at the service to be inclusive.

Details of the Project

What will this project do?

Provide an overview of what the project will involve. This should consolidate the information you have provided above to briefly explain what will happen during the project and what outcomes this will lead to.

Is there an external support provider for this project? yes/no

If yes, who is the Support Provider?

Provide the name of your chosen support provider here. If the support provider is an organisation provide the name of the organisation and the name of the specific individual/s from the organisation who you will be working with (if known)

If yes, why have you chosen them?

Briefly explain your rationale for choosing this support provider. This may include factors such as value for money, availability of the service, support provider experience and/or expertise.

What are their skills/expertise/qualifications in relation to the identified barriers?

Ask your support provider for a statement outlining this information to accompany their quote. Include here or attach as a separate document.

(If relevant) Provide a brief description of content to be delivered during this project (including information re: the evidence base for the project content and how it aligns with the aims of the ISP)

Your support provider (if you are using one) should be able to provide this information or help you to write it. Your Inclusion Professional will also be able to advise regarding the suitability of a particular approach or specific content.

The aim of this question is to find out whether the proposed information to be provided to educators is reputable and whether it is compatible with inclusive practice. Your answer should briefly outline the theory and/or evidence that supports the content to be provided through the project. You should also outline how this content aligns with an inclusive approach.

How many care environments will be involved in the project?

Innovative Solutions projects can be developed for a whole service or some care environments within a service. Use this question to tell us how many care environments will be participating in the project.

How many educators will participate in the project?

Use this question to tell us how many educators will participate in the project. This is the total number of educators across the entire length of the project. Use the project plan (see next question) to identify the anticipated number of educators who will participate in each component of the project.

Provide a Project Plan including an overview of project sessions

Your plan should show when each project session or activity will occur, the hours of support to be provided on each occasion, and who will participate in each session. It should also include a summary of the content to be delivered or support to be provided at each session and an indication of whether each session is Professional Development (i.e.: formal content delivery), Mentoring, Coaching or another form of support. If a session combines these forms of support, then an indication of the hours for each should be included.

The Project Plan should provide a clear picture of the overall project and how it will be delivered.

Your support provider may be able to provide a plan based on your discussions with them or help you to write it. If the required information will not easily fit here, please attach it to your application as a separate document. There is a blank Project Plan Template available on the IDFM website for you to use.

NB: the activities outlined in the Project Plan must match the activities included in the Support Provider's quote.

Does the Project include the supply or development of resources?

Innovative Solutions Support is not intended to be used for the purchase of resources. However, sometimes there may be resources that are necessary for the successful implementation of a project. In these cases, the supply or development of resources can be approved provided they amount to less than 10% of the total project cost. If the project includes the supply or development of resources tick yes here and then provide a brief overview of what the resources are and why they are necessary for the implementation of the project.

How will you sustain the project outcomes once the project is completed?

Innovative Solutions Support aims to generate lasting outcomes. It is expected that services will be able to maintain project outcomes without the need for high levels of ongoing support. This means

that you should have a plan for how your project will lead to embedded and sustainable changes to your practice that will continue after the project finishes. This question is asking how you will do this. Your answer may refer to the project design and how it is designed to create sustainable change. It may also refer to actions you will take once a project is completed to ensure outcomes can be maintained.

Attachments

- **Support Provider quote** (required)

This is required if your project will involve a support provider. Support providers should consult the Information for Support Providers to ensure that their quote includes all necessary information. If your project does not involve a support provider you should include a detailed budget outlining the costs involved in the project.

- **Support Provider Information** (if not included above)

If you have not included information about the support provider's qualifications and experience above upload it to the IS Portal as an attachment

- **Project Plan** (if not included above)

If the support you are requesting was too complex to show above upload your project plan to the IS Portal as an attachment.