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Guidance

Apply for a role in the early years COVID-19 recovery experts and mentors programme

How to apply to become a mentor, expert or area lead for the early years COVID-19 recovery programme.

From: [Department for Education](#)

Published 28 February 2022

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This guidance was withdrawn on 23 May 2022

The opportunity to submit an application for the roles of area lead, expert or mentor for the experts and mentors programme has now closed.

Applies to England

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In October 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) [announced funding](#) to help address the impact of the pandemic. This includes the early years COVID-19 recovery experts and mentors programme.

About the programme

This programme offers bespoke early years support delivered either face-to-face or virtually by trained experts and mentors to:

- early years practitioners
- leaders
- whole settings

The offer to early years settings includes:

- leadership support
- coaching for leaders
- mentoring for practitioners
- whole-setting support depending on a setting's priorities and needs

Available roles

We are currently looking for candidates to take part in the full programme roll-out which starts on a national scale in September 2022 (covering academic years 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024).

We are looking for:

- mentors to provide online or remote support to early years practitioners as they complete a new online child development training package
- experts to provide face-to-face support to leaders of settings
- area leads to act as a first point of contact in their region and provide face-to-face support to setting leaders

All roles will focus on helping children recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including narrowing the gap between disadvantaged children and others.

Skills we're looking for

We are looking for applicants with:

- at least 3 years' experience and who are currently working in an early years setting that is Ofsted rated 'good' or 'outstanding' (or equivalent independent school inspection rating)
- a level 6 or above early years qualification

Applicants may be working in:

- schools
- nursery schools
- private, voluntary or independent (PVI) nurseries
- other early years settings
- early years roles within local authorities, universities, or similar

organisations

Childminders are not eligible to apply for this programme at this time. Information on how childminders can get involved will be announced in due course.

How to apply for a role in the programme

To apply for a role, complete the relevant expression of interest (EOI) form and outline your relevant skills and experience. The documents provide details of the responsibilities and activities you will undertake in each role, including timings.

Expression of interest (EOI) application forms

- [Mentors role description and application form](#) (MS Word Document, 98.8 KB)
- [Experts role description and application form](#) (MS Word Document, 99.9 KB)
- [Area Leads role description and application form](#) (MS Word Document, 101 KB)

Deadline

Submit your expression of interest form to eoι.EYRECOVERY@education.gov.uk by midday Monday 21 March 2022. You can also contact this mailbox with any additional queries.

Funding

Funding for this programme is paid in the form of a grant to a registered setting. We cannot pay individuals directly. Your employer must agree to you applying to become a mentor, expert or area lead. If you are successful, we will issue a grant offer letter to your employer which they need to complete, sign and return to DfE. Claims will be verified and subject to a grant assurance process.

Multiple staff from the same setting or local authority can apply if their manager or headteacher agrees beforehand. The manager only needs to return one grant form for the setting or local authority, not one per person.

Applicants must be available to attend training between May to July 2022 and start supporting settings from September 2022.

How we will use your data

The [privacy notice for early years COVID recovery experts and mentors programme](#) (PDF, 123 KB, 3 pages) explains how we will use your information.

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