

# The Pathway Fund 2027/28 & 2028/29

***The Pathway Fund - Stream C***

***Application for Funding for :-***

***Registered Childminders and Approved Home Childcarers (AHCs)***

***The Pathway Fund – Stream C will operate over a two-year period for 2027/28 and 2028/29.***

***The Pathway Fund budget will be subject to the availability of DE funding in 2027/28 and 2028/29***



Department of Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

## Outcomes

The outcomes of the Pathway Fund are:

- Improved development of children who are at risk of not reaching their full educational potential; and
- An enhanced, more sustainable Early Years sector.

The Pathway Fund will be administered over three Streams and applicants can only apply to one stream. See separate guidance notes and flyer information in relation to Streams A and B. Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

The Pathway Fund Stream C will be open to

- **Registered Childminders and Approved Home Childcarers (AHCs)**

**Stream C**

The Pathway Fund Stream C is open to all registered Childminders and Approved Home Childcarers (AHCs) **supporting Children aged 0 – 4.** Awards of up to the maximum of £500 can be applied for.

Providing applicants meet the eligibility criteria

- Registered Childminder or Approved Home Childcarer (AHC)
- Provide early learning and childcare services for children aged 0-4
- Compliant with the requirements of The Minimum Standards for Childminding and Day Care

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**Stream C applications open on Monday 23rd November 2026 and closes on Friday 18th December 2026 at 4:00pm**.

## Information Sessions

Please register to attend one of the following information sessions, via https://www.early-years.org/the-pathway-fund

| Date | Time |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 17th November 2026 | 12.00pm - 1.00pm, Microsoft Teams<br>6.00pm - 7.00pm, Microsoft Teams<br>7.30pm - 8.30pm, Microsoft Teams |
| Thursday 19th November 2026 | 6.00pm - 7.00pm, Microsoft Teams<br>7.30pm - 8.30pm, Microsoft Teams |
| Monday 23rd November 2026 | 3.00pm - 4.00pm, Microsoft Teams |
| Tuesday 24th November 2026 | 10.00am - 11.00am, Microsoft Teams<br>6.00pm - 7.00pm, Microsoft Teams<br>7.30pm - 8.30pm, Microsoft Teams |
| Wednesday 25th November 2026 | 6.00pm - 7.00pm, Microsoft Teams |
| Thursday 26th November 2026 | 10.00am - 11.00am, Microsoft Teams<br>6.30pm - 7.30pm, Microsoft Teams |
| Monday 30TH November 2026 | 6.30pm - 7.30pm, Microsoft Teams |
| Thursday 3rd December 2026 | 10.00am - 11.00am, Microsoft Teams |

For further information please contact **The Pathway Fund team: Tel: 028 9066 2825 (option 2) Email: streamc@early-years.org**