



Group Training Scheme Fund

June 2020

Group Training Scheme Fund

As part of Budget 2020, the Government has announced a \$19 million Group Training Scheme (GTS) Fund which aims to help ensure apprentices employed by schemes remain connected with their apprenticeships, their host business and the industry.

GTSs are organisations that employ apprentices and place those apprentices with host businesses for on-job training. There are seven schemes across the country that provide employment and pastoral support for around 2,200 apprentices each year, 80% of whom are in construction-related trades.

This GTS Fund is part of the government's wider Apprenticeships Support Programme.

Eligible GTSs will be able to apply for other streams of funding under the Apprenticeship Support Programme, ie. they can apply for Apprenticeship Boost Initiative funding as well as GTS funding.

Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the GTS Fund is to ensure apprentices employed by GTSs are retained by making these Group Training Schemes viable during the immediate aftermath of the lockdown due to COVID-19. The intention is that these apprentices should be moved back into work once firms can host them again, but that they remain employed, and access off-job training opportunities if possible, in the meantime.

The Fund will help ensure a continued pool of apprentices remain employed and are ready and able to take up on-job training opportunities as soon as they arise.

It will also enable GTSs to reconnect with their apprentices who have been let go due to the impacts of Covid-19 and offer them their places back if possible.

Eligibility

GTSs that have been operating since 1 March 2020 and directly employ apprentices and trainees are eligible to access the Fund. Their apprentices should be enrolled, have a formal industry training agreement and placed with host businesses for the fixed-term of their apprenticeship or training.

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) will contact eligible GTSs with details on how to apply for funding.

More information

For more information on the GTS Fund, visit the Tertiary Education Commission website: <https://www.tec.govt.nz> or contact us at customerservice@tec.govt.nz