

Funding Opportunities for your Business

For tailored guidance/support, please email: EconomicGrowth@luton.gov.uk

This page will be updated regularly (last updated December 2022)

- To search for **government grants, publically backed finance and loans and funding** for SMEs and start-ups, visit <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support>
- **Funding Circle:** making finance for small businesses, quick, accessible and simple – largest online platform for business loans <https://www.fundingcircle.com/uk/>
- **Manufacturing Growth Programme:** to support the cost of working with an external expert/coach to implement a pre-agreed Improvement project. Maximum project value of £10,000 with a minimum grant value of £1,000:
<https://www.manufacturinggrowthprogramme.co.uk/apply/>
- **British Business Bank** : finance options for your business including start up loans <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/finance-hub/finance-support/>
- **Better Business Finance:** provides impartial information and support to businesses and entrepreneurs looking to develop and grow
<https://www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk/>
- **Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)** is the industry training board for the UK construction industry and can provide grants and funding
<https://www.citb.co.uk/levy-grants-and-funding/grants-and-funding/>
- **SEMLEP Growth Hub:** Business support service for the South East Midlands with free business advisors to support you and financial advice including workshops with the British Business Bank: <https://www.semlepgrowthhub.com/>
- **SEMLEP Growth Curve programme:** For businesses looking to grow with fully funded University led masterclasses and grants available:
<https://www.semlepgrowthhub.com/growth-curve/>
- **SEMLEP Cost of Living Hub:** Resources to support businesses with the cost of living crisis: <https://www.semlepgrowthhub.com/luton-cost-of-living-support/>
- **Midlands Engine Investment Fund:** www.meif.co.uk
Finance options available via the MEIF include:
Small business loans valued between £25,000 and £150,000
Debt finance worth between £100,000 and £1.5million individual placements
Equity finance of between £50,000 and £2million
Equity proof of concept – early stage equity finance of up to £750,000

- **Wenta:** Business support service with free business advisors to support you with your business: <https://wenta.co.uk/>
- **Wenta Action for Zero programme:** Net Zero support for your business: <https://wenta.co.uk/action-zero-landing-page/>
- **SEMSUP programme:** Business support and grants for start-up businesses in their first 3 years of trading: <https://wenta.co.uk/business-advice/the-south-east-midlands-start-up-programme/>
- **Low Carbon Workspaces Grants:** <https://www.lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk/> Match funded grants of up to £6750 available
- **Help to Grow: Digital:** Eligible businesses can get a 50% discount on approved software solutions up to a maximum of £5K: <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/help-to-grow-digital-uk>
- **Innovate UK:** <https://apply-for-innovation.funding.service.gov.uk/competition/search>
- **Innovate UK Edge:** targeted at innovative businesses from any sector who are ambitious and ready to grow further and scale <https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org/>
- **The University of Bedfordshire Research and Innovation Service** www.beds.ac.uk/ris have two business programmes running with fully funded training and grants:
- **Productivity Escalator** (grants of 30% towards the cost of capital equipment/expertise): www.beds.ac.uk/ris/we-mean-business/business-support-projects/productivity-escalator/
- **Innovation Bridges** (grants of up to £15K): www.beds.ac.uk/ris/we-mean-business/business-support-projects/innovation-bridges/
- **Pathways 4 Recovery:** free programme in starting your own business or social enterprise open to the economically inactive/unemployed: <https://www.beds.ac.uk/ris/we-mean-business/business-support-projects/pathways4recovery/>
- **Digital Future First:** Targeted support and guidance for UK business leaders looking to improve <https://digitalfuturefirst.co.uk/>

VCS Funding:

- **Community Voluntary Service Bedfordshire** : support organisation offering a range of services, including finding funding and enabling local organisations and communities to make a difference <https://www.cvsbeds.org.uk/>
- **Get Grants** : Free search tool to help charities, voluntary groups, schools to get grants <https://www.getgrants.org.uk/>
- **Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation grants** for community groups/charities: <https://blcf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/luton/>
 - *Small Grants Fund* (Grants available of up to £10K, applications for up to £25K considered)
 - *Luton Citizen's Fund* (Grants of up to £4K available)

Luton Heritage Cultural Development Fund: Grants of up to £2K available, applications open until April 2023, for more information and to apply [click here](#)

Please also see:

- [Community Ownership Fund](#) (for voluntary and community organisations, 2 more bidding windows expected before March 2023)
- [Community Learning Fund](#) (annual)

Reduced Town Centre parking schemes are also available for town centre businesses, for more information, please contact: EconomicGrowth@luton.gov.uk