<table>
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<th>Name of Scheme</th>
<th>discretionary Learner Support (dLS) – Hardship 16+</th>
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| What does it do? | The purpose of dLS is to provide exceptional support to learners aged 16 and above, who are experiencing financial difficulty with meeting costs associated with learning. The hardship funds are designed to help with costs associated with learning, e.g books and equipment, additional course costs, transport (19+ only) and some course fees.  
Note: as dLS is managed on a local basis there will be variations in the eligibility, how much will be paid and how to apply. However providers must operate within the LSC National Guidance and Requirements, which sets certain parameters on how funding can be spent. |
| Who is eligible? | dLS is available to support learners studying in LSC-funded Further Education (FE) Colleges, External Institutions (Els), Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), School Sixth Forms and Sixth Form Colleges. |
| What type of learning is applicable? | The course taken must be funded by the LSC |
| How much could the learner receive? | Schools and colleges set their own criteria and manage their own procedures. This means that the amount of funds available to individuals, and the way the funds are allocated may differ between institutions. |
| What can/can’t the funding be used for? | Learners should exercise their entitlement to other forms of financial support before eligibility for dLS is considered. In summary they comprise: Education Maintenance Allowance; Adult Learning Grant; Care to Learn; Residential Support Scheme, Dance and Drama Awards, Sixth Form College Childcare Scheme and Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work.  
✓ Hardship can be used for books, equipment, additional course costs, transport (19+ only) and some course fees (16-18 resits and 19+). |
| How does the learner apply? | ▪ If the learner is at college, they should speak with their Welfare Officer or Student Support Officer  
▪ If the learner is in sixth form they should speak to their Year Tutor or Student Support Officer |
| What are the effects on other sources of funding and benefits? | ✓ Learners can claim if they also receive grants and funds including: EMA, ALG, CDL, C2L and Disability Living Allowance  
× Prisoners on day release are not eligible for dLS  
× Learners on courses that are wholly funded from other sources are NOT eligible  
× Any learner on one of the following courses: Learndirect, New Deal programme, Apprenticeship training programme, Work Based Learning course, Adult and Community learning course |
| How are the funds administered? | ▪ LSC National office allocates funding for discretionary Learner Support to the LSC regions. The regions are then responsible for making funding allocations to the learning providers or the Local Authority in their area.  
▪ Applicants should apply for support directly to their learning providers, who provide support at their discretion and in accordance with the LSC published guidance.  
▪ The payments could be made in cash directly to the learner or via a third party, or the payment could pay for goods and services. The payment could also be a loan which has to be paid back, or a grant which doesn’t. |
| What is the aim? | The aim of discretionary Learner Support is to increase participation and retention in post 16 education by helping to overcome the financial barriers associated with learning. |
| What are the key achievements of the funding? | During 2007/08 just over 230,000 awards of discretionary Learner Support were made to learners aged 16-18, and over 320,000 to learners aged 19+. |
| Further Information and Contact Details | ▪ Learner Support - Information for Providers and Advisers (LSC website)  
▪ Information for 14-19 Applicants (Direct.gov website)  
▪ Information for Adult Applicants (Direct.gov website)  
▪ Discretionary Learner Support Guidance 2009/10  
▪ LSC Area Details |