



1. General

Q1.1 What level of grant is available through AAA?

A1.1 For AAA applications received on or after the 29th October 2021 a Standard Rate grant of £2000 is available. An Enhanced Rate grant of £5000 is available for applications from employers within the oil and gas industry or supply chain.

Q1.2 What is the application process for AAA?

A5.2 The Training Provider applies via the FIPS system on behalf of the Replacement Employer. Incomplete or inaccurate applications will cause delays in the approval process.

Q1.3 What support is available for Providers with using FIPS?

A5.1 A FIPS Quick Start Guide on the creation and submission of an AAA Application is available on the [FIPS page of the SDS Provider Web Pages](#).

2. Eligibility

Q2.1 Which Apprentices are eligible for AAA?

A2.1 Training Providers will be able to apply for AAA on behalf of Replacement Employers taking on a Modern or Graduate Apprentice who has been made redundant on or after the 1st April 2019 and who meets the requirements set out in the AAA Programme rules available [here](#).

The Training Provider must be satisfied that the Apprentice has been made redundant, and this must be recorded as part of the Application. Proof of redundancy should be a person-specific notification of redundancy from the previous employer for example, an official letter from the Outgoing Employer, notifying the Apprentice of their redundancy. Where this is not available, advice should be sought from the aaa@sds.co.uk inbox.

The Training Provider must ensure that details of the reason for redundancy are checked with the Outgoing Employer and record these details as part of the Application.

Q2.2 Are all employers eligible to be a Replacement Employer for an adopted Apprentice?

A2.2 Any employer in the public or private sector where they have a genuine, reasonable expectation that the adopted Apprentice will complete their apprenticeship is eligible to become a Replacement Employer for an adopted Apprentice.

Training Providers who wish to be a Replacement Employer for an adopted Apprentice are eligible for AAA if there is a genuine vacancy.

AAA is **not** available for an Apprentice in respect of whom a grant incentive payment (such as but not limited to a grant under this programme) has been paid to a linked employer. “Linked employer” means the Replacement Employer or a company, sole trader, partnership or other business entity substantially controlled by: -

- (i) the same person(s) (including the Replacement Employer) who control the Replacement Employer; or
- (ii) person(s) substantially connected (whether commercially or otherwise) with the person(s) who control the Replacement Employer.

Q2.3 How many times can a redundant Apprentice utilise AAA funding?

A2.3 An Apprentice is eligible for AAA once per redundancy. Should an Apprentice be made redundant on more than one occasion and continue to meet the eligibility criteria they would be eligible for AAA for a second or subsequent time. Please also see the AAA Programme Rules paragraph 7.6 in relation to training needs.

Q2.4 If an Apprentice starts on an Apprentice Transition Plan, are they eligible for the grant if they enter employment?

A2.4 Yes, if they meet all other eligibility criteria for AAA

3. Leaving within the specified 12 month period

Q2.1 What happens if a Replacement Employer makes an adopted Apprentice redundant within the specified 12 month period?

A2.1 The Replacement Employer must notify the Training Provider within 10 working days if they make an adopted Apprentice redundant within the specified 12-month period.

The Training Provider must update FIPS with the required redundancy details as early as possible and email the aaa@sds.co.uk inbox with specific details and circumstances.

SDS will recover the full amount of the grant paid out.

Q2.2 The Replacement Employer has gone into liquidation. Will SDS still look to recover the AAA grant?

A2.2 Yes. Training providers must immediately inform SDS of the employer and number of apprentices involved.

Q2.3 The adopted Apprentice decides that they wish to leave to programme/employer Will SDS still look to recover the AAA grant?

A2.3 Yes. Training Providers should inform SDS as soon as it is known the Apprentice has left the programme/employer and provide all details known.