

## Expression of Interest



**You are invited to express your interest in running a project to add value to construction training outcomes in Devon.**

### Background

In 2018 Devon Communities Together (DCT) secured a grant of £575k from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership which enabled the formation of a trading subsidiary Constructing Futures Devon Ltd (CFDL).

Over four years, CFDL worked in collaboration with South Devon College, providing real life work experience for construction learners by acquiring and renovating properties achieving high quality family homes. These were then sold on the open market with the profits reinvested in the company. To date the project turnover has been £1.3 million.

DCT and CFDL are now seeking to develop this successful project in a new and innovative way which will not require capital investment but will demonstrably enhance existing provision for construction learners.

**Funding up to £175,000 is available to extend this innovative project.**

### The aim and objectives

The aim of the project is to provide added value to construction learning opportunities and thus lay the foundations of achieving a fulfilling career in construction. Specific objectives are:

- (α) engaging construction learners in a manner that is motivating
- (β) promoting high skill levels
- (χ) developing confidence in construction learners in new-build and renovation settings
- (δ) attracting learners from rural areas

We expect the project to make a discernible difference to the perception of construction training in Devon and thus be a catalyst for future programmes.

### Your proposal

The aims are paramount; we welcome innovative proposals. Please give a short description of your idea and then details of how the funding will be used to deliver the project aims and objectives and how outcomes will be measured and reported. Your proposals should demonstrate:

**How the funding will be used** - this will need to demonstrate either that the proposals are discrete from any existing provision or, if they are not, how existing provision will be enhanced through the available funding. The funding is to be used within the ceremonial county of Devon.

**The amount of match funding or 'in kind' contribution** (if any) - this additional resource could be from your own organisation or by securing funding and other support from credible partners and sponsors. Your proposals do not necessarily need to include precise details of any match funding but must achieve the desired outcomes.

**The duration of the project** - we expect the project to run for at least two years.

**Extra outcomes** (if any) - please describe any additional outcomes that your proposals will achieve over and above those of meeting our stated objectives.

**The diversity of learners that would be involved and especially those from rural areas** - we intend that the project should encompass not just those who come through traditional education routes but also participant groups of all ages and backgrounds for whom construction training could provide new opportunities. One of the criteria upon which your proposal will be assessed is your description of how those in rural areas will be engaged and supported.

**How you would manage Safeguarding and Health & Safety** - the diversity of learners may require particular safeguarding protocols which you should describe, where relevant.

**The number of learners that would be involved** - we accept that there may need to be a trade-off between the number and the diversity of learners so you should set out your rationale for the approach and the outputs you propose.

**How the impact will be measured** - the outcomes need to be assessed by providing feedback about the number of supported learners, the reach into rural areas, the diversity of learners and their future pathways. Your proposals should include suggested metrics for these outcomes.

**How you would report progress** - we intend monitoring by DCT to be light touch but a minimum reporting frequency of every three months with an annual summary is expected. Your proposals should indicate a form of reporting that is not cumbersome to you but reports progress in a meaningful way.

#### **Further information**

In addition to this document you are referred to the Supplier Questionnaire and the Evaluation Matrix. This invitation is open to all but the Supplier Questionnaire sets out certain qualifying criteria. The Evaluation Matrix provides guidance on the basis upon which submissions will be assessed. A single contract is to be awarded.

During the development of your proposals please contact us by 5pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 if any matters need clarification or elaboration. Questions, should be addressed to [admin@cdfd.co.uk](mailto:admin@cdfd.co.uk). The answers to questions, unless they are commercially sensitive to your submission, will be circulated to all bidders.

#### **Deadline**

You are invited to respond by 12pm, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

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CFDL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Devon Communities Together (Company No. 09440453 / Charity No. 1074047) [www.devoncommunities.org.uk](http://www.devoncommunities.org.uk)