

ARFOR PROGRAMME

Grants to Support the Use of the Welsh Language in Business on Anglesey



ARFOR
CREU GWAITH - CEFNOGI'R IAITH



Guidelines

Updated 30/9/24

Anglesey ARFOR Grants Guidelines

Background

Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire and Anglesey are the counties with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers, but the number has been decreasing for a long time. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers is a key goal for the Welsh Government through the Million Welsh Speakers Plan 2050. Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire and Anglesey are also counties that have economic challenges as they are rural counties with low wages.

£11 million has been earmarked by the Welsh Government for the period 2022/23 to - 2024/25 to allow the four counties to work together and create interventions to ensure the prosperity of the West Wales economy and to experiment and trial plans to that end.

ARFOR is therefore a joint program by Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils which looks to use entrepreneurship and develop the economy to support the strongholds of the Welsh language and, thereby, maintain the language.

Under the ARFOR Program there are a number of funds that offer financial grants to businesses and individuals such as the ARFOR Challenge Fund and the Enterprising Communities Support Fund. **The Language grants on Anglesey have resulted from the Enterprising Communities Fund.**

For more information about the above and the ARFOR program see: www.rhaglenarfor.cymru

The objectives of the grants

Applicants who submit bids for support through the Arfor fund should be able to contribute towards one or more of the objectives below:

- Support economic growth in areas where the Welsh language is spoken
- Promoting the use of Welsh and bilingualism in business

Who is eligible?

The fund will be open to any viable financial business that is already or intends to trade; and which meets the definition of a Small to Medium Enterprise (less than 250 staff and an annual turnover of less than £50 million). It can include:

- A limited company
- Community Benefit Company
- Sole Trader
- The trading arm of a Registered Charity

What is eligible?

Contributions cannot be made towards construction costs or the purchase of property / land or statutory activities. See below a list of examples of items and services that may be eligible:

- Language training
- Introducing, modifying or improving the use of the Welsh language in the business e.g visual, auditory materials and/or both.

It is a condition of the Welsh Government that the Arfor grant is not given where another suitable grant is already available.

A maximum grant of £3,000 is available to each applicant and a minimum 30% match funding contribution is required.

Who makes the decisions?

A Grants Panel will meet at the end of the open window to assess the fund's applications. The panel will be representatives from Anglesey County Council and Menter Môn. It is possible that the panel will ask for more information or clarification on some issues before being able to decide.

If successful, how will the money be obtained?

If successful, an offer letter will come to your attention which fully explains how to claim the money. **Do not order or pay for anything before you receive and return the offer letter.** It will only be possible to claim a grant after you have purchased and paid. Remember to ensure that your cash flow is sufficient to pay, and that you submit your claim (with evidence of expenditure - a copy of the invoice and a bank statement showing the payment), so that your claim can be processing and for ARFOR money to reach your bank.

A grant cannot be given if you have paid for anything with cash . If you want to use a credit card you will need a copy of the card statement showing the payment.

Will I be monitored?

If your application is successful, you will be closely monitored to:

- ensure that the grant is being spent on what was approved
- ensure that the project is proceeding / has happened in accordance with this
- ensure that grant funded items remain in place / use
- to ensure that Arfor grants achieve their purpose
- to collect information regarding the activities and outputs from the grant

Please note - this could be a visit by a representative from either Anglesey County Council, the Welsh Government or Menter Môn at short notice, to examine your use of the Arfor funding at any time during your project or after its completion.

If Menter Môn, Anglesey County Council or the Welsh Government are of the opinion that the money has not been spent for the purpose agreed, or that the project is very different to what was proposed, it is possible that the grant, or a relevant proportion of it will be reclaimed.

You will be monitored for up to 2 years after the grant has been paid to you.

Do I need to get competitive prices for each item?

You are asked to follow the guidelines to invite quotations when seeking prices for individual items/services within your scheme and include all evidence with your application.

Quotation requirements
One written quote for each item

You are asked to enter the details of each item that will be purchased with the support of the grant.

Other Conditions for receiving Offshore Language Grants

- All applications must be prepared to commit themselves to equal opportunities in terms of language, race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, age or, as far as is practical, disability.
- Payments/contributions cannot be made towards work that has already started or equipment that has already been purchased.
- Support will not be provided to maintain a business as it is, renew existing equipment, or carry out a change in order to comply with rules or law.
- The grant cannot be used to finance an activity which is a statutory duty.
- You will have to declare that you have not received more than £315,000 of EU State Aid de Minimus /SAFA/SPEI/ICA over a period of three years.
- All businesses receiving a grant must be economically and financially viable. Anglesey County Council, or Menter Môn (as its agent) reserves the right to investigate the credit status through the Credit Audit Agency of anyone who receives a grant. This instruction could be given as a result of a specific inquiry, or on the basis of spot checks .
- You will have to create and keep an inventory of all goods purchased with grant support, together with a record of all serial numbers or other means of

identification where applicable. A copy of this must be submitted with your grant claim.

- Any grants awarded must be spent and claimed in full before the end of December 2024.
- All grants are subject to completion of any statutory procedures (eg planning permission, food and environmental regulations, licensing requirements), and evidence that you have all relevant rights and permissions eg a right from the owner of the property.
- Plans that are contrary to the Welsh Government's Arfor grant conditions (copy available), Welsh Government policies and rules, or Anglesey County Council's policies and rules cannot be supported.
- Grant recipients will have to acknowledge the financial support through Arfor in relevant publicity
- All successful applicants will be expected to be prepared to show evidence of any outputs / outcomes relevant to the fund.
- You will be expected to complete and return an evaluation form for the Arfor grant you have received and an officer will contact recipients about this.