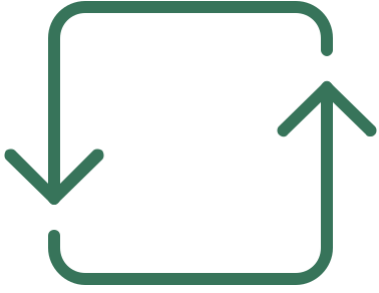


Applying for Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF Levels 3 & 4)

BEFORE APPLYING



The early years provision must use the graduated approach to support all children's individual learning and development in a fully inclusive environment. Working together with parents/carers and professionals, a 'My Early Years Support Plan' should be written and implemented if any learning and developmental delay is identified.

SENIF Notional Budget has replaced the process of applying for SENIF level 2 which was in place during 2023/24. SENIF level 2 payments ceased on the 31st March 2024.

Our expectation is that all OFSTED registered settings and schools will support inclusivity and equality of access to FEEE places for families, and that OFSTED registered settings and schools who receive SENIF Notional Budget Funding should be able to meet the needs of children taking up their FEEE place with low/medium level learning and developmental delay through the use of OAP, AET and Speech, Language and Communication strategies.

DECIDING TO APPLY

During the implementation of the graduated approach and 'My Early Years Support Plan' - if it is clear the child's learning and development needs require further interventions, which are above and beyond an inclusive environment, OAP and the SENIF Notional Budget - an application for SENIF level 3&4 must be considered. To be eligible for SENIF Level 3 & 4 the child should be taking up their free early education entitlement (FEEE) and have a learning and developmental delay of 25 months or over or Profound and Multiple Learning Disability including Profound SEMH Needs.



GETTING READY TO APPLY

A SENIF application form must be fully completed and all documentation regarding the child's learning and development should also be gathered. This must include 'My Early Years Support Plan' and should also include documents such as reports from health professionals. Parents/carers must be informed of the application and sign the application form.

APPLYING

Send each application to **EYSEND.Panel@walthamforest.gov.uk**. The applications will be considered by the panel on a monthly basis, the referrer will receive a SENIF Decision Form with the outcome of the application. For the application to be considered: the SENIF Application Form must be fully completed, and a completed up-to-date SEND Plan must be submitted. If documents are not fully completed, this may delay the consideration of the application and the start date of the funding.



APPLICATION



The SENIF application will be considered by the Early Years, Childcare and Business Development Service. Each application is considered on an individual basis and considers the child's learning and developmental needs and the early years provision. Funding is generally approved for the duration of the academic year, unless a child has not yet started at a setting, or the application is being made from a professional outside of the setting. Further recommendations will also be shared with the early years provision via the SENIF Decision Form.

OUTCOME OF APPLICATION

A SENIF Decision Form will be sent to the referrer outlining the approved funding amount and funding period. The payments will be on the early years provision's remittance slip and are paid monthly. It is the early years provision's responsibility to ensure the funding is being spent to support the individual's learning and development. If the funding period is due to end - a SENIF Review Form must be completed with updated documentation and resubmitted.



For further information about the SENIF Process or to download the SENIF application forms visit:

thehub-beta.walthamforest.gov.uk/early-years-send-funding

