



youth
futures
FOUNDATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions about the Youth Futures Grants

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Organisations' Eligibility

1. What type of organisation is eligible to apply to the Youth Futures Foundation?

Given the nature of the funding and requirements for evaluation, there are some criteria that organisations must meet to be eligible to apply. In general, we are hoping to support promising practice delivered by registered charitable organisations that have been established for at least three years and already working with the target groups of young people in England. Currently we are not supporting for-profit organisations through this funding. The full list of requirements is available in our Grant Prospectus at <https://youthfuturesfoundation.org/grants/>.

2. Why is there a turnover eligibility threshold?

We are looking to fund promising practice that can be substantiated by an independent evaluation report at the end of the project, using qualitative and quantitative information about the programme's process and (where possible) impact. In order to achieve this, we need to work with organisations which have sufficient capacity, capability and resources, and enough financial resilience and health to engage in this process.

Through research and testing we have identified that small organisations, with a low number of paid staff posts and reliance on volunteers, would find it challenging to engage in this process. However, we do welcome applications from partnerships or consortia but require all applications to have a clearly identified lead organisation which will be accountable for the programme's delivery. This means that if a smaller organisation is not eligible to apply, then it could work in partnership with an eligible lead organisation, such as a local authority.

3. Our turnover dipped last year due to a cut in funding but we are on track to meet the turnover criteria in this financial year – are we still eligible to apply?

Unfortunately, we require you to meet the turnover criteria based on your last published set of accounts and we are unable to use management account figures at this stage.

The Youth Futures Foundation will continue to offer open funding during 2021 and beyond. If you decide not to apply for funding this year or if you are ineligible to apply until your next published set of accounts, please sign up to our newsletter to ensure you receive updates about future funding.

4. Why do I need to share employer references?

In order to improve wellbeing and productivity, and equip the country for the future, we need to harness the diversity and skills of all young people. We recognise that engaging employers is critical in enabling meaningful employment for young people in England who are neither earning nor learning. We are therefore keen to ensure that funded programmes have good links with employers.

If your programme is targeting young people over 18, we would expect your focus to be primarily on achieving employment outcomes. If you are targeting under 18s, outcomes can include those well-evidenced to improve their chances of future employment. We recognise that relationships with employers will vary based on the type of activities and outcomes you are looking to achieve. Therefore, employers can include local small businesses, regional or national companies. You may have engaged them as advisers, coaches or mentors, or to assist with training, work experience, internships, work placements or employment.

5. I am applying as a lead applicant. Do my partners need to meet the organisational criteria as well?

No, as long as your lead applicant organisation is eligible to apply, then you could work in partnership with other organisations who do not meet all the requirements, such as newer or smaller charities. For partnership applications we will ask you to list your main partners, their relevant experience and what they will deliver. When assessing your application, we will consider the balance of partners ensuring they are meaningfully involved, their skills and contributions to the delivery of the programme and the equity of funding across each one.

6. Can an organisation apply for a grant and be a partner in a consortium or partnership bid?

Yes. Organisations can apply as part of other applications or be named as partners in a consortium or partnership bids. If you are submitting multiple applications, they must be different both in terms of the intervention and partners. For those organisations that are called on by multiple smaller organisations to support a collective application we will accept up to three applications per lead organisation. Please contact us to discuss if you require further information

7. Does the consortium have to be formally constituted as opposed to a partnership with a partnership agreement?

If you apply as a consortium, it becomes the named applicant for the bid and does need to be formally constituted with its own bank account and three sets of accounts. Alternatively, Organisations can apply as a 'lead applicant' where they have a formal partnership agreement in place. In this case it will not be necessary to set up a formally constituted consortium.

8. Are state-funded schools, academies and higher education institutions apply to the fund?

Schools and HE Institutions can apply for funding, provided they meet the basic eligibility requirements set out in section 2 of the Youth Futures Foundation prospectus available here: <https://youthfuturesfoundation.org/grants/>. Funding will only be provided towards a distinct programme working with young people who are at risk of becoming NEET, or are experiencing significant barriers to progression, in order to improve their access to employment and the labour market.

9. We are a newly formed organisation which hasn't yet filed accounts at Companies House or the Charity Commission. Can I apply to the Youth Futures Foundation?

We require organisations which apply for the Youth Futures Foundation to have a proven track record of working with young people and audited/examined accounts for at least three years. Those that do not will be deemed ineligible during an initial review.

10. I am applying on behalf of a Local Authority – do we still need to meet all the same eligibility requirements?

Local Authorities need to meet all but one of the same eligibility criteria as other types of organisations required. Local Authorities do not need to notify us if they have deficits in previous years. Please choose N/A in the eligibility quiz question around account deficits if you are applying on behalf of a Local Authority.

Projects' Eligibility

11. Can Youth Futures Foundation funding be used for core costs?

Yes, core costs related to your delivery and the development of your organisation to deliver effectively are fundable. We use full cost recovery in our grant-making to ensure that an organisation recovers the **full cost** of delivering a service or project including applicable core costs. A full list of eligible costs is included in the Grant Prospectus.

12. We deliver a number of different youth-based intervention models across England; can we submit an application per area or intervention type?

It is not necessary to submit multiple applications if you are delivering one intervention across a number of areas. One application can include multi-delivery sites, so long as the model of delivery is the same across all sites. You will be asked in the later stages of your application to provide numbers of young people who will be accessing your project in each of the area(s) your project will be delivering from.

If you are delivering a range of different interventions, then you may submit a separate application for each one up to a limit of three applications per organisation.

13. Are you looking for national projects or local ones?

We are not applying any restrictions in terms of the locality of any project. It could be local, regional or national as long as it meets the basic programme criteria. We do, however, ask that you consider the uniformity of any intervention across geographical areas that you are including as 'one project'. All the work you ask us to fund must be delivered in England.

14. Will young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) aged 25 be supported by the Youth Futures Foundation?

The Youth Futures Foundation supports young people aged 14 to 24. Therefore, our funding cannot be used to support young people with disabilities over the age of 24 on starting activity.

15. Are we required to have a minimum % of match funding already secured for the project before applying?

We do not require you to have any match funding in place before applying, and we will consider applications for 100% of the project cost.

Finance and Application Form Queries

16. How do I start an application form for a Youth Futures Grant?

To begin an application, please visit www.youthfuturesfoundation.org and complete our Stage 1 eligibility quiz via our grant portal (pictured below). We strongly encourage you to read our prospectus before deciding whether you should begin an application. If you are applying to Youth Futures for the first time, please click on the 'New Applicant' button on the portal and complete our quiz.



Please Sign In

Welcome to our online grants portal

For the best customer experience please use Internet Explorer, Edge or Firefox. This system does not work with Google Chrome.

New Applicant?

Please click on the 'New Applicant' button below to register for an online account.
You will be asked to provide an email and password.

Already have an Account?

Please enter your email address and password below.
If you have an account, but have forgotten your password, please click on the 'Forgot your Password?' link found below.
If you are looking to access your part saved application form please click [here](#).

A screenshot of the online grants portal login page. It features two input fields: 'E-mail' with the text 'Bryony.livesey@rocketsciencelab.co.uk' and 'Password'. Below the 'E-mail' field is a button labeled 'New Applicant?' which is circled in red. To the right of the 'Password' field is a link labeled 'Forgot your Password?'. At the bottom center of the form area is a 'Login' button.

E-mail
Bryony.livesey@rocketsciencelab.co.uk

Password

New Applicant?

Forgot your Password?

Login

Please note that, for data security reasons, the portal will automatically log you off from your application after **60** minutes of inactivity. To ensure that you do not lose any information you have input, please ensure that you save your form regularly.

17. Can I save and return to my initial application form if it is incomplete?

Please note that you cannot save and return to the eligibility quiz. If you receive a negative response and you wish to try again then you will be asked to start again.

If you pass the eligibility quiz you will automatically proceed to stage one of the application process. From this point onwards you can save and return to edit your initial application form at any time until it is submitted. To access your already started form, please ensure that you log back into your account using the email and password section of the portal (pictured below)

Already have an Account?

Please enter your email address and password below.

If you have an account, but have forgotten your password, please click on the "Forgot your Password?" link found below.

If you are looking to access your part saved application form please click [here](#).

The screenshot shows a login interface. On the left, there is an "E-mail" input field containing the text "Bryony.livesey@rocketsciencelab.co.uk" and a "New Applicant?" button below it. On the right, there is a "Password" input field and a "Forgot your Password?" link below it. At the bottom center, there is a "Login" button.

18. Is Youth Futures Foundation grants subject to VAT?

No, Youth Futures Foundation grants are not subject to VAT. We will not add VAT to any grant payments that we make. Organisations cannot claim expenditure or use our funding for recoverable VAT because the grant recipient should be able to reclaim these funds back from HMRC. In terms of irrecoverable VAT, as part of their funding bid, organisations can include such costs in their grant bid (as they wouldn't be able to claim the VAT back). However, this will have to be evidenced and included in the overall grant amount being requested.

19. The application form's word count is shorter than I need. Can I submit information outside the form?

Wherever possible, we will simplify requirements for you and use available public records (such as published annual accounts) to understand prospective grantees' purpose, programmes, leadership and financial standing. We will also commit to using other sources of information which relate to the delivery of your programme, such as an existing business or programme plan, proposals and reports written for other funders, in lieu of completing application forms or creating new versions of information already written.

If you don't have existing documents, we don't expect you to produce these for your application and have carefully considered the minimum amount of information we need to ensure it fulfils our assessment criteria. We would encourage you therefore to use the word limit provided. If your application proceeds to stage 3, you will have the opportunity to discuss your plan in more detail with us, including sharing any information not requested at earlier stages.

20. When will I hear back about the outcome of my application?

The Youth Futures Foundation funding is run on an open rolling basis, we therefore do not have set closing dates for submission or for notification of outcomes. Please see section 3 of the prospectus for guidance on the application process and likely application timeframes at each stage.

21. What information do I need to provide in terms of 'details of participant information'?

To support our assessment of your ongoing monitoring and evaluation processes and procedures, we are asking you to submit a sample of the information you collect on the participants of your programmes such as demographic or participation information. We would ask that you do not include any sensitive data such as names or addresses and ensure that any headings are clearly identifiable.

Evaluation and Capacity Building support

22. How do I know if our delivery model is best suited to an Evaluation or Development Grant?

We ask that you provide honest and clear information about your delivery, its track record and the information you collect on young people. We will assess whether the programme meets our criteria, and then assess the most appropriate channel.

23. What is involved in an independent evaluation?

We want to ensure that each evaluation is appropriate to the delivery model and track record. However, we also want to ensure that evaluations are conducted to a consistent level of quality. We will ask independent teams to provide ideas for the most appropriate evaluation, based on your delivery. We will work with them and you to agree the best approach. This could range from:

- a high-quality process evaluation focused on testing the theory and implementation of your delivery. For example, it could assess which elements are associated with stronger outputs for the young people involved; to
- a randomised trial where large numbers of young people are independently assigned to either participate in a new intervention or continue to receive the support they are already involved in, and both groups are tracked on future employment outcomes. This would also involve a detailed process evaluation to assess the strength of your implementation.

To make the independent evaluation robust, this could involve changes to what you deliver – for example, increasing the number of young people involved, or the level of information that needs to be collected about them and their participation.

24. What support will I receive if we're independently evaluated?

We will fund you to first spend up to a year working with Youth Futures Foundation and an independent evaluator, who will lead the design of the evaluation. You will be supported to ensure that you understand the implications of any decisions made. You will be funded to ensure that you have the management and capacity to deliver the project as required for a successful evaluation. We will pay for your staff time to liaise with and respond to requests from the external evaluation partner.

25. What support will I receive if our project is a Development grant?

We will conduct a thorough needs assessment of what support will be useful to you. This could include:

- Funding to deliver your activity to support young people
- Core funding to provide capacity for you to deliver improvements and ability to buy in specialist external help where needed
- Support to develop a robust theory of change
- Help to design accurate and meaningful indicators of project/support outcomes and impacts for young people
- Support to review and design meaningful management information data and user-friendly recording systems
- Peer learning with other grantees working in similar situations or with similar groups of young people
- Access to expert-led training and good practice networks, enabling a journey to full independent evaluation
- Bespoke training and support led by us and partners

Coronavirus

26. Why are you launching a grants programme now?

It has been our longstanding intention to launch our grants programmes by Spring 2020, with the objective to find, fund, support and evaluate promising practice; to understand what is effective and what is not; and to learn, more broadly, 'what works' when tackling youth unemployment. We are, and always will be, a trust based grant maker. We are committed to listening and responding to those incredible people, organisations and programmes working to make life better for young people.

27. Have you considered the impact of Coronavirus?

We have carefully considered the impact of Coronavirus on the launch of our grants programme.

We absolutely recognise that the Covid-19 outbreak is an exceptional event that will have a significant impact on both civil society groups supporting young people to acquire skills and access opportunities, and the employers seeking to hire and train them. We want to offer reassurance that we stand with the sector during this time. We wish to be as helpful as possible during the coming weeks and months so that civil society groups can focus on the vital work of supporting some of the most vulnerable young people in our communities.

After listening to organisations who are currently delivering services for young people, we have decided to proceed with our funding launch as the feedback indicated that:

- Civil society organisations are still delivering and need financial support, many are seeking innovative ways to continue to support young people in partnership with statutory bodies and through remote access
- If funders close funding rounds or delay decisions now it will have a negative impact on the already fragile income pipeline many civil society organisations experience, leading to a drop in provision for young people in late 2020 and throughout 2021
- We hope our funding will help to enable service delivery to continue, without causing unnecessary gaps or breaks when other funding ends. Young people are already being impacted as a result of Coronavirus; job opportunities and interviews are being cancelled, many young people are in insecure employment and at high risk of losing their jobs over the next few months, many more young people are coping on low wages making them particularly vulnerable to shortages and price rises.
- In some instances, civil society staff will be working from home over the next few months whilst not delivering services, freeing up time for them to apply for funding now before delivery re-starts.

We anticipate that Coronavirus will have a significant impact on the economy and with that young peoples' employment chances. We know from the last recession that young people were hit hard by economic uncertainty and we hope that by providing funding, we can support young people who will likely be affected.

28. What happens if we miss the application deadline due to illness?

Our grants funding has been designed and tested to ensure that it is simple and straightforward to access. It is also available on a rolling basis, with no application deadlines. This means that should anybody be poorly, self-isolating or unaware of our launch, they will not miss out on accessing our funding in the future.

29. What are you doing to ensure that as much as is possible, its business as normal?

Whilst we will do everything we can to ensure the smooth delivery of our grants programme, we are also realistic that the Covid-19 outbreak could cause some disruption. So far, we have put in place business continuity plans for both the Youth Futures team and our grants partner Rocket Science, to ensure we have a fully staffed and trained team in place to respond to your enquiries and questions.

We also plan on being flexible and changing the frequency or planned dates of our decision making panels.

We will continue to monitor and apply guidance from government and will ensure good communication with those seeking and applying for our funding.

30. What happens if you need to visit our organisation?

Whilst we had planned to visit all our grant applicants before decision making, these visits will now be conducted virtually.

If we feel that a visit to you is essential for us to better get to know you, we might talk to you about postponing a decision on your application until we are able to visit in person.

31. How are you supporting your existing grant holders?

We do not have any current live grants. Our first funding decisions will be made between June and September 2020.

We have pledged to discuss, adapt, be flexible and listen to applicants and grant holders, recognising that there will be times when staff and volunteers will not be available, when beneficiaries may need services to be provided in different ways, or when systems need to be flexible to ensure that needs are met.