



youth
futures
FOUNDATION

**Connected Futures Fund
Frequently Asked Questions**

Youth Futures Fund Connected Futures Fund FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions about the Youth Futures Connected Futures Fund

1. What type of organisation is eligible to apply for Connected Futures Fund? **2**
2. What is the deadline for applying to the Connected Futures Fund? **2**
3. What funding is available? **2**
4. What can the Youth Futures Foundation Connected Futures funding be used for? **2**
5. How long do we have to spend the funding? **3**
6. What happens if you need to contact our organisation? **3**
7. When will I hear back about the outcome of my application? **4**
8. Does the largest organisation have to be the lead partner or be the accountable partner? **4**
9. What reporting do we need to undertake? **4**
10. How do I start an application form for a Youth Futures Connected Futures Grant? **4**
11. Can I save and return to my initial application form if it is incomplete? **5**
12. Are Youth Futures Foundation grants subject to VAT? **5**
13. What is the rationale for the local authority areas you have selected? **6**

1. What type of organisation is eligible to apply for Connected Futures Fund?

You must nominate one partner to be accountable for the grant. We will make our grant to this partner and they should then distribute funding to the other partners and procure services or activities as required.

The accountable partner must

- have a minimum turnover of £100,000 per annum
- have been in operation for a minimum of three years
- be a registered charity, not-for-profit organisation or public sector body legally incorporated in England.¹

2. What is the deadline for applying to the Connected Futures Fund?

The fund will close for applications at midnight on Monday 17th January 2022. Applications received after this time will not be accepted. Please ensure you allow sufficient time to save and submit your application in advance of the deadline.

3. What funding is available?

In phase 1 we expect to award grants of between £75,000 and £125,000 of restricted investment per partnership.

You can apply for less than £75,000. However, this figure is based on our assessment of the effort and cost required in phase 1. We would advise you to think carefully about whether you can achieve what you want to in phase 1 for significantly less than this.

4. What can Connected Futures funding be used for?

We are offering restricted investment for programme costs. If your application is shortlisted, we will ask you for a detailed explanation of how you will use the funding over the next 18 months, why this is needed and how this will support your partnership and young people.

You may request funding for any activities to help you understand the problem and mobilise people around a shared ambition for change.

- Salaries and staff costs, including existing staff

¹ A private sector organisation such as a large employer cannot act as the accountable partner, but a not-for-profit organisation representing employers, such as a Chamber of Commerce or Local Enterprise Partnership would be eligible.

Youth Futures Fund Connected Futures Fund FAQs

- Costs of young people's and/or volunteers' time and participation
- Research to understand young people's experiences or how services and agencies currently work with each other
- Exploring evidence or experiences from other places
- Data/cost-benefit analysis or evaluation to make the case for new approaches
- Co-design or prototyping to try out new ways of working at small scale

We are open to your ideas.

We will not fund:

- Activities that generate profits for private gain
- The practice of religion, or any activities that actively promote religion or particular belief systems
- Recoverable VAT – if you are not VAT registered, you will need to include VAT costs as part of the funding you request
- Retrospective costs, including any costs incurred in preparing and submitting your application
- Loan repayments

5. How long do we have to spend the funding?

The initial commitment will be for 18 months in phase 1.

However, we advise you to front load your activities into the first 12 months.

6. What happens if you need to contact our organisation?

Should we require further clarification or additional information on your application, you will be contacted by email or phone using the details you have provided. Please ensure that you update us regarding any relevant contact changes by emailing grants@youthfuturesfoundation.org

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

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email in February 2022.

8. Does the largest organisation have to be the lead partner or be the accountable partner? Does the same organisation have to be the lead and accountable partner?

No. Different organisations can act as lead partner (responsible for delivery) and accountable partner (accountable to Youth Futures for the grant). This is so you can make sure that each organisation is playing the most appropriate role.

For example, you may have a small community organisation in your partnership, along with two larger partners. The community organisation might be best placed to engage young people and lead the process of exploration and mobilisation, so they would act as the lead partner, but they might not have time or staff to manage grant accountability, or the turnover to meet Youth Futures's due diligence criteria, so one of the other organisations would act as the accountable partner.

Alternatively, the largest organisation in your partnership might be a public sector body such as a local authority. However, if this organisation acts as the accountable partner (the grant recipient), their internal procurement processes might make it harder for the partnership to operate, so one of the smaller partners could be the accountable partner and make a payment to the local authority partner.

You must make sure that the accountable partner meets our criteria for organisational type, turnover and operating period.

9. What reporting do we need to undertake?

All organisations we work with through this fund will be supported with an independent, externally commissioned learning partner. As part of grant management process, we will arrange quarterly monitoring meetings and require you to provide us with a quarterly financial update.

10. How do I start an application form for a Connected Futures Grant?

The online application portal will open on Thursday 4th November 2021. We strongly encourage you to read our prospectus, which will be available on the same day, 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.

Youth Futures Fund Connected Futures Fund FAQs

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](#).

The screenshot shows a login form with two input fields: 'E-mail' containing '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 is a 'Login' button.

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.

11. 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 the next stage 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 click on the 'here' phrase where it says 'If you are looking to access your part saved application for, please click here (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 the same login form as above. The text 'If you are looking to access your part saved application form please click [here](#).' is highlighted with a red box. The 'New Applicant?' button is also visible below the 'E-mail' field.

12

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

Youth Futures Fund Connected Futures Fund FAQs

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.

13. What is the rationale for the local authority areas you have selected?

Our focus is on young people who face the most discrimination and disadvantage in the labour market. We want the Connected Futures Fund to make a difference to meaningful numbers of young people in each place where we invest. If we want to change the ways that wider systems work, we think it's important to focus on places where there are significant numbers of young people facing disadvantage.

We therefore developed a list of eligible local authority areas with:

- A higher than average concentration of young people facing disadvantage
- A higher than average proportion of young people not in employment, education or training

We used the following datasets and criteria to develop this list:

- Proportion of lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the bottom 10% of the 2019 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index – all local authorities ranked 1-50 (bottom 15%) are included, and local authorities ranked 51-150 (bottom 50%) were given a weighted score which was combined with the other two criteria
- Proportion of young people not in employment, education or training after Key Stage 3 in the 2018/19 Department for Education statistics – local authorities in the bottom 10% were given a weighted score which was combined with the other two criteria
- Youth claimant count, August 2021 – local authorities with a youth claimant count more than 1% above the England average (bottom 30%) were given a weighted score which was combined with the other two criteria

We weighted the scores on youth employment, education and training slightly lower than deprivation, because the DfE statistics are not current and do not cover young people over the age of 18, and the youth claimant count, although up-to-date, only provides a snapshot of one aspect of youth employment. Areas with lower levels of youth employment, education and training over time were scored under both criteria and were therefore added to our list to create the final list of 83 (approximately 25% of local authority areas in England).

If you have any questions about the Connected Futures Fund application process, please call us on 020 7553 4539 or by email at: grants@youthfuturesfoundation.org quoting Connected Futures Fund in the subject line.