

## Innovate and Cultivate Fund Q&A

These questions and answers are to offer potential applicants guidance on the Innovate and Cultivate Fund. Please ring Cambridgeshire Community Foundation on 01223 410535 if you have other questions or want to clarify any points.

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>Eligibility of applicant</b>	
Who can apply?	<p>Applications are invited from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors, based in and outside of Cambridgeshire. We will also accept applications from public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>All projects have to benefit the residents of Cambridgeshire. Please note that projects serving the residents of the Peterborough City Council local authority area are <i>not</i> eligible for funding.</p>
Can individuals apply?	No
Can businesses apply?	For profit businesses cannot apply – not for profit (CIC or social enterprises) can apply.
Can Councils apply?	Yes, any public sector organisation based in Cambridgeshire can apply.
Can an organisation put in more than one application in the same time	Only one application should be submitted at a time. When the outcome of this application is known, a further application may be submitted.
We are a new organisation– can we still submit a project proposal	Yes – but large grants are unlikely to be offered to new organisations with no track record of delivery
Can we make a joint application with another organisation(s)?	Yes – but you would need to identify the lead partner. Only one grant recipient can be identified.
If I have previously applied and was unsuccessful, may I re-apply for the same or similar project if it has been modified to better fit the Fund criteria?	Please contact CCF to discuss your application.

Eligibility of project	
Can projects apply if the proposal benefits residents outside Cambridgeshire as well as within the County?	Grant awards cannot be used to offer <b>direct</b> support to non-county residents.
Can an Innovate and Cultivate grant be used as a match for another funding bid we are developing?	Provided the outcomes for Cambridgeshire County Council are clearly defined and costed this may be acceptable. You would need to flag this up in the Application Form.
Does the Innovate and Cultivate Fund offer grants for continuation funding of an existing project?	The Fund does not offer continuation funding to existing projects whose sources of funding are ending. The Fund is for projects which are new to the area. Existing projects or programmes that wish to expand into new areas, or work in new ways with new groups of people, are welcome to apply.
Would a grant from the Innovate and Cultivate Fund count as State Aid?	<p>As the Innovate and Cultivate Fund is awarded from Cambridgeshire County Council, a grant could count as State Aid.</p> <p>An approved EU mechanism for State Aid is the de minimis regulation, based on the Commission's view that small amounts of aid are unlikely to distort competition. The De Minimis Regulation allows small amounts of aid – less than €200,000 over 3 rolling years – to be given to an undertaking for a wide range of purposes. If you use this mechanism, you do not need to notify or get approval, but records of aid granted must be kept. As part of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund application process applicants need to quantify how much, if any, State Aid they have already received and whether any exemptions can be applied. If an organisation has already reached or exceeded de minimis or if an Innovate and Cultivate Fund grant would result in de minimis being exceeded, the matter needs to be discussed.</p> <p>A general introduction to State Aid rules can be found at this link.  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443686/BIS-15-417-state-aid-the-basics-guide.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443686/BIS-15-417-state-aid-the-basics-guide.pdf</a></p>
Are business loans funded through the scheme as well as grants?	No
Can capital as well as revenue expenditure be funded?	Yes

Will a proposal be considered if it involves asking for funding beyond 1 year?	Yes - projects can apply for up to two years of funding subject to clear plans about the sustainability of the project thereafter.
Are any costs ineligible?	Costs to cover the following will not be allowed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Debts and debt service charges (interest);</li> <li>-Provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;</li> <li>-Purchases of land or buildings;</li> <li>-Currency exchange losses;</li> <li>-Projects promoting political activities</li> <li>-Faith groups promoting religious, non-community based activities</li> <li>-Projects lobbying for a particular cause or action</li> <li>-Deficit or retrospective funding (i.e. grants for activities which have already taken place)</li> </ul>
<b>Process</b>	
How long is the application process?	The full application process is 3 months for small grants and up to 5 months for large grants.
When will grants be paid to successful applicants?	You will be asked to sign to accept the terms and conditions of the grant. Once the grant offer has been accepted, payment of the grant will normally be made within 10-14 days. For larger grants, payments will be in quarterly tranches and will be dependent upon progress of the project ( see 15)
How will funding be awarded – in advance/arrears, etc?	It will normally be advance for at least part of the sum. Where the project is sufficiently large or where timescale exceeds one year we will propose a timetable of payments by instalments, subject to satisfactory progress being made and providing evidence of the costs incurred to date.
What obligations will successful bidders be required to sign up to?	These will be explained as part of the grant offer letter
What are the consequences if the project costs turn out to be higher or lower than the sum bid for?	No further grant will be paid to cover unanticipated costs. Underspends of over £100 must be declared and repaid.