

FAQ

1. What happens if you are inundated with good applications for 1st August deadline, could the 1st November deadline be cancelled?

No. The 1st November deadline is important to give VCSE colleagues longer to prepare if they need it. Applications received on the 1st August deadline will have to be prioritised so there is still funding available for the second and final round.

2. If a group misses out on funding for 1st August but have a strong idea to which tweaks need to be applied from the feedback received, can they apply again for 1st November deadline?

Yes. The aim of the programme is to encourage and support the best projects. We're happy to work with groups with great ideas to help them deliver great outcomes for our local population however we would also want to ensure transparency by making it clear who is resubmitting.

3. The funding covers 5 districts. How will the funds be split, will it be an even distribution to each district?

No it won't be split equally because we expect a mixture of bids some county wide some possibly 2 or 3 districts so this would be very challenging to do – it will depend on the quality of the applications coming forward but we will aim to ensure a good spread across the area. It's impossible to say exactly what this spread of investment will be until we see what applications we get.

5. How do we work out our chances of success before putting a lot of time and effort into making an application?

We want to inspire and encourage effective innovation so are requesting as many of your ideas as possible. Please don't be put off applying for fear or not being successful as we are committed to supporting the best ideas and there might be other pots of funding we can access or signpost to. Putting in an application would not be a wasted effort and we have invested in infrastructure support from CCF and CVS colleagues to support you to make a successful application.

6. What structure or governance should a Consortium have in place in order to apply?

There is not a specific required approach for working together on bids. What we would be looking for in the bids is a demonstration in your application of what effective governance measures you have in place to gain assurance that the project is safe and effective and how you are going to hold each other accountable.

7. Does a group have to apply for 3 years and what if they want to put a smaller bid in??

No. You can apply for 1 year or 2 years and for less than £50,000 a year if that's what's required particularly for smaller organisations. We don't want to put barriers up to smaller eligible groups applying for a smaller amount. CCF will update the website to reflect this asap.

8. Can groups sub-grant and for more than 3 years?

No, for timing and governance reasons we would not suggest this runs beyond 3 years in terms of this project. It's really important to gather the learning from this programme and, at its end, the funds need to be spent and projects delivered to be able to do that. Due diligence will be done and governance tested for groups applying and the same may not be applied by decision-makers to organisations who received a sub-grant and had not gone through that process. It would be up to applicants proposing to sub-grant on how they would provide effective governance for this and describe this in their application.

9. Are capital items eligible for funding?

Yes, but the accountability sits with the purchasing organisation and not with the NHS. It also needs to be proportionate in relation to the total amount of funding being requested i.e. supports the bid not the bid itself.

10. How will ICB work alongside projects and support them across the system?

District Councils are undertaking bids aligned to the same areas working with the system Partnerships so there is already significant opportunity for alignment and the ICB will encourage this approach. The ICB will also support projects and use them as a way to accelerate integration across our system. There will be a special session at the end of the programme to capture as much learning as possible.

11. Will funds be split evenly across the six priority areas?

No. Allocation will largely depend on the bids that come in. As above we will aim for a spread of geography but are not enforcing a proportion of the fund for each priority area.

12. What do you mean by 'can't include overheads' in the ineligibility criteria? Will this exclude larger organisations from applying that require a proportion of all bids to cover expenses such as HR functions that support all staff?

We appreciate that some overheads may need to form part of applications. It's important that there is transparency and clarity within the bid submission, and that it still relates to the project i.e. the in-house HR support will also support staff running the project.

14. How will you evaluate impact across the whole fund?

We would strongly encourage applicants to include evaluation and any resources needed to undertake this within their bid submissions. We will also have a learning event at the one-year mark for all successful bids to share learning and outputs.

15. Does the living wage criteria apply to positions that are exempt from minimum wage for example apprenticeships?

No. there are separate guidelines relating to apprenticeships that should be followed.

16. Are you able to provide any further info on what constitutes a partnership in the eyes of the decision makers on the fund ?

As above point 6. there is not a specific approach.

17. Will awards be scaled or made partially?

The expectation is that awards will be made in full but projects scale and expected impact must be proportionate to the amount of money being awarded. Evidence of the project's ability to succeed and deliver that impact should be included in the application.

18. Are we able to propose multiple projects that meet more than one of your criteria, for example Children and YP mental health, high intensity health service users, and frailty?

Yes.

19. Within the category of 'High Intensity users of services', can this be within Mental Health, suicide prevention for example, and also people at risk of going into care due to long term health issues?

Yes.

20. What are the criteria of differentiation for awarding a three year project vs a one year project?

Again it's about proportionality to the work your delivering and the impact. The amount of money being requested should match the expected impact. It would be difficult to award 300 for a project that had not been tested where impact could not be evidenced to support a grant of that size.

21. Our services do not cover the whole county, is that acceptable?

The programme itself (HFF) must cover the whole county. It is not necessary for individual projects to cover the whole county.

22. We are a social enterprise. Is this something we would be able to explore with the funding to develop any products made by our participants to sell, or not?

Whilst we recognise the commercial aspect of running a social enterprise we do not feel that using HFF funding to develop products for sale is within the spirit of this particular programme so, no, that would not be an eligible cost.

23. In terms of impact, will you be prioritising projects that deliver high volume number of beneficiaries or deeper change for smaller numbers?

No. Impact will be assessed on how well it is evidenced and how proportionate that is to the grant amount requested.

24. Can we attach/ submit photos and videos to our application as evidence?

No. To keep the process fair, the same information must be presented for each application in the same format. The panel will be assessing each application against the same criteria using the same method.

25. As a large events organisation, we have a variety of employees on a variety of levels of pay and contracts. Will we still be eligible?

Whatever contracts your employees are on, to be eligible for this fund you must pay the living wage.

Support contacts:

1. Help with the application form and process of applying Cambridgeshire Community Foundation viv@cambscf.org.uk and / or <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/>
2. Advice with becoming grant ready, registering with the Living Wage or partnership working CCVS <https://www.cambridgecvs.org.uk/> , PCVS <https://www.pcv.co.uk/> and Hunts Forum <https://huntsforum.org.uk/> .
3. Specialist advice on your area of work and cohort of beneficiaries ICB links via CCF.