



## Frequently asked questions

### Who are UK Youth?

UK Youth is a leading charity that exists to ensure all young people are equipped to thrive and empowered to contribute at every stage of their lives. We work with others to ensure that the youth sector is strengthened, supported, and that provision is youth-led, evidence-informed and delivers high-quality outcomes.

UK Youth plays a unique role in addressing; the lack of investment in the youth sector, the lack of cross-sector understanding in how youth work makes a difference and the limited opportunities to embed effective solutions. These factors lead to mass inequality of access to youth services for young people.

Working through networks of youth organisations and supporters, we galvanise a movement of people to support our shared vision. The UK Youth Movement is open to all and currently stands at over 7,000 youth organisations and nation partners, collectively reaching 4.1 million young people.

### Why are UK Youth launching a questionnaire?

One of UK Youth's core priorities is to unlock and distribute much needed investment and support to youth organisations across the UK. We are proud to launch the UK Youth Fund where our ambitions are to channel millions of pounds

The  
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investment to the sector over the coming years. Our ability to do this is dependent on having strong data and evidence to help us campaign and influence national decision makers to unlock funding.

The impact of Covid has had a devastating impact on young people and the role of youth organisations has never more needed and we know that Covid is having (and will continue to have) an acute impact on the sector, especially after 10 years of de-funding and lack of investment. We are hearing how many organisations are fighting for survival whilst still trying to support the young people who need their help the most.

We are here for you but we need stronger evidence to convince policy and funding decision makers to invest in vital youth services, and we need your help to do it. By completing this questionnaire you are enabling us to build a comprehensive picture of the pressure youth organisations are under and the state of youth services today.

This information will empower us to fight on your behalf to secure the investment the sector needs to survive, adapt and thrive now and long into the future. We will also be sharing this data and insight with our sector colleagues and partners as part of our commitment to working collaboratively.

### **Who should complete the questionnaire?**

Any organisation in England is encouraged to complete the questionnaire. We need as much data as possible so please do share this questionnaire with your networks. If your organisation meets the criteria for the UK Youth Fund – Covid Relief your responses to this questionnaire will be used as your application for funding and be considered by our decision-making panel. If you are not eligible for the UK Youth Fund - Covid Relief, by completing this questionnaire you will still play a critical role in helping UK Youth unlock further investment and support for youth work.

### **How will the information I provide be used by UK Youth?**

All data will be aggregated together to give us a sector wide picture. Organisational names and personal information will not be shared outside of UK Youth and all data will be anonymised. We will look at the data through different lens including geographical, size of organisations, type of organisations, etc.

### **How will UK Youth use the overall findings of the questionnaire?**

UK Youth will share the data and produce a report outlining the results across the sector. We will publish and share this data in the new year once we have completed the analysis.

The aim is to use the data we capture to demonstrate to policy and decision makers the impact of youth work and the investment needed to sustain services. This will



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include sharing this information with the relevant Government departments to help shape their thinking on the Spending Review and Youth Investment Fund Commitment. We will continue to use this information to campaign on your behalf to secure more funding and investment for young people.

## **Will there be more funding available through The UK Youth Fund in the future?**

We are committed to unlocking more funding we can distribute through The UK Youth Fund. That's why completing the questionnaire is so important, so we have strong evidence of need to take to funders and government.

## **I'm having trouble completing the form, can I ring UK Youth for help?**

Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to respond to incoming calls. The quickest way to get the help you need is to email [grants@ukyouth.org](mailto:grants@ukyouth.org) with your query. This inbox is monitored 9-5 every weekday and we will get back to you within 24 hours.

We will also be running a [webinar on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November](#) from 10am-11am, and another [webinar on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November](#) from 3pm-4pm, where organisations will be able to hear more about our ambitions and ask questions directly to the team. These sessions will be recorded and a written summary of any questions and answers be shared on the website following the session.

## **I have accessibility requirements and require a different format or additional support?**

Please email [grants@ukyouth.org](mailto:grants@ukyouth.org) with 'Accessibility' in the subject line and we will prioritise responding to your request. It is our intention to remove all barriers that may prevent an organisation from completing the questionnaire so do not hesitate to get in touch if you require additional support.

## **Why are you giving organisations the option to submit a video as part of the questionnaire?**

We recognise that a written application is not always the best way for an organisation to convey the message they want to a funder. In line with our ambition to be as accessible and inclusive as possible we are giving those organisations who prefer to communicate through video the option to do so.

## **About The UK Youth Fund- Covid Relief**



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## When is the deadline for the application?

The deadline is midday on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## When is the deadline for supporting documents?

The deadline is midday on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## Who is eligible to be considered for funding through the Covid Relief strand?

Only small organisations with a turnover of less than £250k, based in England who have not had the access the crisis funding they require to survive the Covid pandemic will be considered for funding. Organisations who meet this criteria, must complete their bank details on the questionnaire in order to be considered for the funding.

Unfortunately groups and organisations within The Scout Association or Girlguiding will not be eligible to receive funding through the UK Youth Fund.

If you are a section or group within The Scout Association, then the Pears Foundation and DCMS have also been awarded funding for Scouting in areas where provision is vulnerable. This will be launched later in the year via [scouts.org.uk](https://scouts.org.uk)

If you run a Girlguiding unit then you will have the opportunity to apply for grants too. More information to follow on [girlguiding.org.uk](https://girlguiding.org.uk) before the end of the year.

## What can I spend the money on?

The aim of the UK Youth Fund- Covid Relief is to reduce organisational closures as a result of Covid and support the adaptations needed to ensure high quality essential services to young people can continue in both the short and long term.

The following are examples of eligible costs to request funding for:

- Staff salaries
- Project running costs
- Running costs/overheads
- Goods and equipment which would not be capitalised (e.g. to develop enhanced physical environment and continue to deliver services)
- Organisational development

The following ineligible costs should not be included:

- Activities that make profits for private gain

- Campaigning activities (this fund is to support the delivery of direct services for vulnerable people)
- Religious activities (we can fund religious organisations if their project benefits the wider community and doesn't include religious content)
- Political or lobbying activities
- Loan repayment
- Debt repayments to HMRC or other crown debts

### **How much funding will you be awarding overall?**

We expect to award grants up to the value of £1,840,000.

### **Why can I only apply for £50,000?**

This funding is targeted at organisations with an annual turnover of under £250,000. Based on this information, and the average grant size through previous funding initiatives, we believe this to be a correct limit. We also want to ensure we can support as many organisations as possible.

### **Is there a minimum funding request?**

No there is no minimum funding request. Organisations are advised to ask for the funding they need to survive the next 15 months.

### **Why is the funding split into two different periods?**

We will be providing funding over the immediate short term – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, and over the medium-term April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 – 2022. We have split our funding offer into two periods. You can request funding to cover both periods or just one, but the funding you ask for must be spent within that specific time period. What you need funding for does not have to be the same for both periods.

The reason for this split is due to the requirements of all DCMS match funding needing to be spent by grantees by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The funding from Pears Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Do I have to be a member of the UK Youth Movement to apply?**

No, but by completing his questionnaire you will be connecting to a network of over 7000 other youth organisations across the UK. A member of the UK Youth team will be in touch once you've completed the questionnaire to explore what other support and resources you can benefit from.

### **Do I have to be a youth club or a youth charity?**

No, you just have to be applying for an activity that supports young people.

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### **When will I receive the funding?**

Year 1 payment (up to end of March 2021) will be paid w/c 14<sup>th</sup> December as long as we have a signed grant agreement from you. Year 2 payment (April 21-March 22) will be made in April 21 following the submission of an end of Year 1 report.

### **When does the grant have to be spent by?**

Year 1 grant must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, and Year 2 grant must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **What reporting requirements will there be?**

We recognise the challenges you are currently experiencing, and we want the reporting requirements to be proportional to the size of the grant. Therefore, we will be asking for an end of Year 1 report (due by beginning of April), mid-Year 2 report (October 21) and final funding report (March 22).

UK Youth will provide templates to complete and can provide support to organisations in completing them. The templates will ask about the difference this funding has made to your organisation and the impact of the funding on your work to support young people.

We also want to maximise the opportunity to spotlight and showcase the work of youth organisations and will be looking for case studies and organisations who are willing to create digital content we can use to demonstrate the impact of youth work. You will be asked at the grant agreement stage whether you are interested in this opportunity.

### **Where has the money come from?**

This funding has been awarded to UK Youth by Pears Foundation and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation who have been successful in unlocking funding through the DCMS Community Match Fund. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Can I make more than one submission to the questionnaire?**

Only one submission per organisation can be made.

### **Can I apply as a group?**

No, individual organisations are asked to complete the questionnaire.

### **Can I apply on behalf of an organisation?**

No, each organisation must apply themselves and separately.

### **Will you help us to write a bid to apply for funding?**

As we have hundreds of applications coming in and we do not have the capacity to assist with individual bids. The application itself is formatted as a questionnaire. As such, it is fairly straightforward to fill out.

We do allow video submissions for some of the open text sections in the application, which can be emailed to us (if smaller in size) or you can post to your social media accounts and tag us.

### **Are there links to the Q&A webinars that UK Youth hosted regarding the fund?**

Yes, we have links to the webinars. The first is [here](#) and the second is [here](#).

### **If we have received other funding over the course of the pandemic, will we still be eligible for this funding?**

Yes. In the application we ask about previous crisis funding you may have received to get a better idea of the demand for funds across the sector.

### **What age range do we have to support to be eligible for this funding?**

UK Youth goes by the approach that youth work refers to the ages of 8-25. However, we are taking each application in a case-by-case scenario, and if you are slightly out of this age range, we will review your application based on what you have told us about your organisation and its impact on the lives of young people.

### **I've made a mistake on the form I completed- can I amend?**

Don't worry, these things happen. Please email [grants@ukyouth.org](mailto:grants@ukyouth.org) with the correct information. We will match this to your submission ensuring we have the correct information to review.

### **Is there is limit to funds in the bank account or reserves?**

We have not stipulated a limit to funds available in bank accounts or reserves, however, we do ask for details of your reserves. If you do have large cash reserves you will need to explain why you are unable to use those resources to assist you and are instead applying for this funding.

### **Would putting in place infrastructure to move more of your delivery online to keep working during the Pandemic be the type of request that would be eligible?**

Yes.

**Could you please clarify if this funding could be used to purchase IT Digital equipment i.e. digital training video recording, microphones, laptops, and IT accessories to support the delivery of our community services.**

Yes. Small capital expenditures are allowed – anything that you would not capitalise in your accounts.

**As an organisation we have been able to support employees through the furlough scheme. Would we still be able to apply for the grant?**

Yes.

**Is the grant only applicable to organisations who work solely with children/young people, or can organisations who work with a wider audience, including young people, also apply?**

Yes, orgs who work with a wider audience, including young people, would be eligible for the fund. However, you must be able to demonstrate the proportion of work focused on young people, letting us know how the funds will help the young people you serve specifically.

**The organisation as a whole exceeds the income level of £250,000 quoted in your FAQ's, but the project that focusses on youth work has an income within that level. Are we eligible?**

Unfortunately, no. For eligibility we are looking at the income of the organisation as a whole.

**Will you fund organisations that have started operating from this year?**

Newer organisations are eligible for the funding but will need to send us proof of accounts to show that you are an active organisation.

**Could we apply for unrestricted funds?**

Yes, you can apply for unrestricted funding.

**Can we apply if our organisation does not have a website?**

Yes, you can still apply to the fund if you do not have a website. You can enter NA into the field asking for the website and it should let you proceed.



## Will I get feedback if I am unsuccessful?

No. We unfortunately do not have the resources to provide individual feedback. But we know how important feedback is and will share general learning and reflections in the new year, once we have made all the awards. This is likely to be in the format of report, blog and webinars.

## Who will make the funding decisions?

All eligible submissions will be assessed by an independent assessor following a clear scoring framework. The shortlisted submissions will then go to a panel for final decision. The panels will be made up of 50% young people and 50% external sector experts.

## How we will make funding decisions?

All the information you provide through this questionnaire will help us make a decision about how to award funding. From the close of the application window on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, we will assess and make decisions on all eligible organisations by the w/c 14<sup>th</sup> December. Our aim is to ensure all Year 1 grant payments are made and grant agreements signed by the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

A scoring framework will be used to assess all submissions focusing on four key areas:

- The impact of your organisation's work for the young people you serve;
- The impact of covid-19 on your organisation's ability to meet the needs of the young people;
- The impact of this funding should you be successful;
- Does your organisation support young people who are most affected by systemic oppression and discrimination? This includes Black, Asian and other groups who experience racism, Deaf/disabled people and those who identify as sitting at the intersections of several minoritized identities, those who identify as LGBT+, as well as those who have not had financial support growing up.

A Panel (comprising of sector experts and young people) will make the final decision on which organisations will receive funding. As well as the scoring criteria, we will also need to consider the following in our decision making:

- Ensuring geographical spread of funding across England.
- Ensuring we fund organisations with a range of organisational incomes (under £250k turnover);
- Ensuring we fund a broad range of organisations who support those most affected by systemic oppression and discrimination.

## Why is it important for you to consider organisations who are supporting young people affected by systemic oppression and discrimination?

We know that organisations serving people affected by systemic oppression and discrimination have not received the same level of access to Covid related funding as other organisations. UK Youth is committed to ensuring we reach those organisations who need this funding the most, and in line with our funder's commitments we will ensure these organisations are actively considered throughout the assessment process.

## Can I appeal the decision?

No, the decision of the grant panel is final.