

Grant Holder Support Development Partnership

Frequently asked questions

About the Grant Holder Support

What are the aims of the partnership?

We want to increase the knowledge, skills and resilience of civil society organisations. To do this we'll offer a £150 million package of funding and support to address the most common challenges that communities face.

We're offering funding of £2.1 million for this development stage, from spring 2025 to spring 2026. The partners we bring in will use this funding to deliver support to some of our grant holders. And others that need support most. They'll identify and develop the support package that communities need. We want the support we offer to be equitable. By this we mean recognising that not every community starts with the same resources. And that to make things fairer, we should support those that need it most.

What sort of activities will the partnership need to deliver?

Activities should be focused on helping grant holders and other community organisations strengthen their skills and resilience. This might include workshops, community engagement sessions, or tailored advice for organisations. The goal is to understand what works best to support these groups.

What are the key areas of focus for development phase of Grant Holder Support?

The programme will focus on four key areas:

- **Environmental sustainability:** Helping organisations reduce their environmental impact.
- **Inclusion and equity:** Supporting organisations to be more inclusive and better meet the needs of marginalised communities.
- **Data and digital transformation:** Helping organisations use digital tools and data more effectively.
- **Organisational resilience:** Building skills in areas like HR, legal support, and strategic planning.

These areas are starting points, and we welcome your ideas about other kinds of support that might be needed.

What budget is available?

A total of £2.1 million is available during the development phase. This funding is divided as follows:

- £200,000 is allocated for the lead partner to manage the partnership and facilitate the work.
- £1.9 million is set aside for supporting the 8–10 additional partner organisations that will be brought into the partnership.

What does the lead partner need to do?

The lead partner will have three main responsibilities:

- **Bringing the partnership together:** This means coordinating with 8–10 other organisations that have different skills and areas of expertise.
- **Delivering developmental activities:** These will help us understand what support grant holders need to strengthen their organisations.
- **Collaborating with the Fund:** The lead partner will work closely with The National Lottery Community Fund to ensure the development phase meets the needs of communities across England.

Do we need to have the full partnership in place before we apply?

No, you don't need to have a complete partnership ready when you apply. It's enough to tell us who you plan to involve and why. If you are selected, we'll work with you to finalise the partnership and may also suggest additional organisations to join.

If we are part of this phase, will it stop us from being part of future opportunities?

No, participating in the development phase will not prevent you from being part of the wider programme in the future. The goal is to develop a strong, inclusive partnership now, and organisations involved in this phase will not have an unfair advantage or disadvantage when the larger programme rolls out.

Eligibility

Can I apply to be a partner, rather than the lead?

Yes, you can. In terms of brokering relationship, if you think you want to be part of the partnership and you don't want to be a lead partner, please submit an expression of interest to us.

Do all partners have to meet the eligibility criteria?

All funded partners must meet the same eligibility criteria as the lead partner (e.g., being a not-for-profit organisation). However, organisations that don't meet these criteria, such as private businesses, can still join as unfunded partners.

Can local authorities apply as a lead partner?

No, local authorities cannot act as lead partners for this opportunity. The organisations that can lead include registered charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), Community Interest Companies (CICs), community benefit societies, and other not-for-profit organisations that have an asset lock. However, local authorities are welcome to join as partners in a supporting role, but they would not receive funding from this programme.

Do we need to focus on regional, national, or local issues?

We are looking for a mix of organisations that can address needs at all levels – local, regional, and national. Some support will be specific to certain communities or areas, while other needs, like digital tools or organisational resilience, may be relevant to organisations everywhere.

Can organisations already funded by The National Lottery Community Fund apply?

Yes, organisations that are currently funded by The National Lottery Community Fund can still apply. Receiving funding through other programmes does not exclude you from this opportunity.

Do applicants need to have a history with The National Lottery Community Fund?

No, we are open to working with organisations that have never previously been awarded funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, as well as those we have previously funded.

Can organisations apply for multiple funds simultaneously?

Yes, organisations can submit expressions of interest for multiple partnership call-outs. However, we cannot double fund the same activity. Please consider which opportunities align most with the activities you are proposing and your organisation's ambitions. We are only seeking to work with a small number of partners in this development partnership.

Can private businesses be part of the partnership?

Yes, private businesses can participate in the partnership, but only as unfunded partners. This means they can contribute their skills and expertise but will not be eligible to receive funding.

Can partnerships focus on specific communities, such as racialised groups or geographic areas?

Absolutely. We welcome partnerships that have a strong focus on specific communities, whether those are racialised groups, marginalised populations, or regions. While the aim is to address a broad range of needs across England, it is important that the partnerships include a variety of perspectives to ensure everyone's needs are considered.

Are grassroots organisations eligible to take part?

Yes, grassroots organisations are encouraged to join this programme. Whether as a lead partner or as part of the wider partnership, your knowledge of local issues and communities is incredibly valuable. You can also find the general eligibility criteria here:

tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/granholdersupport#section-2

Timeline and process

What are the key dates for the application process?

- Expressions of Interest Open: 8 January 2025
- Expressions of Interest Close: 5 February 2025
- Invitations for Full Applications Sent: 28 February 2025
- Full Applications Due: 28 March 2025
- Decisions Announced: May 2025

Where will I find the expression of interest form?

The expression of interest form will be available on 8th January 2025 at tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/granholdersupport.

What questions will I need to answer?

You will be asked to complete three free form questions and to confirm that you are interested in working in partnership with us in the development phase. You'll also need to provide some basic details about your organisation, and your key contacts. Details of these additional questions can be found on our website at:

tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/granholdersupport.

Your Expression of Interest will ask you to answer three key questions:

Tell us about your experience of working with others to develop new activities.

This could include:

- when you've worked with or led partners on shared projects
- examples of your work that have brought together lived experience, lived expertise and professional experience
- how you've used co-design to learn from others and made things better.

Tell us about the range of partners you would like to bring into this partnership. This should include:

- the expertise and perspective they bring
- your existing working relationship with them
- how you'll bring in partner organisations that are newer. Or not mainstream. For example, organisations that work with marginalised community groups.

Give us some examples of how your work aligns with our strategy. Our strategy, it starts with community, supports communities to:

- come together
- be environmentally sustainable
- help children and young people thrive
- enable people to live healthier lives.
- taking an equity-based approach.

You'll also need to provide some basic details about your organisation, similar to what is required for our Reaching Communities programme.

Further Support

If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact us at GrantHolderSupportEngland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk. You can also find more information about this programme, including recordings of the webinar, on our [Grant Holder Support](#) webpage.

This FAQ reflects our commitment to ensuring that funding is fair, accessible, and effective in meeting the needs of communities across England.

