

You Decide Development Partnership

Frequently asked questions

About You Decide

What will be the role of partners beyond the development phase?

The future role of partners beyond the development phase is being shaped through this process. While participation in the development phase does not guarantee future engagement, it also doesn't exclude any partners from being involved in the future programme or other future funding programmes from The National Lottery Community Fund.

What do you mean by onward granting?

Onward granting means using our funding to then give out grants to other organisations.

What budget is available?

A total of £2 million is available during the development phase. This funding is divided as follows:

- £400,000 is allocated to cover our partner's contribution across 12 months of work. Up to £80,000 is available per partner.
- £1.6 million is set aside for test and learn activities.

Is the £1.6 million for onward granting part of the £2 million pot for the development phase?

Yes, the £1.6 million for onward granting is included in the £2 million allotted for the development phase.

How will engagement with The National Lottery Community Fund be structured during the development phase?

As this is a partnership, we will work with the five organisations that are selected to join the partnership to shape the precise details. However we envisage it taking the form of regular engagement to share learning with one another. We anticipate this may also involve hosting or attending visits and engaging in both face to face and or online partnership working.

Has it been acknowledged that participatory grant making and co-production will require more resources?

Yes, the need for a different approach that requires more time and funding has been acknowledged. The development phase is intended to address this through proper planning and allocation.

How is the You Decide initiative different from other programmes like the Community Power fund?

The Community Power fund focuses on how communities influence decisions that affect them broadly, not on grant funding for communities to make decisions over. You Decide involves engaging communities in decisions over which good causes our grant funding supports. This is not the main aim of the Community Power fund.

Are you focussing on working in areas of deprivation?

Yes, The National Lottery Community Fund aims to invest in communities that are experiencing the most disadvantage, discrimination and poverty. In the You Decide development partnership we are particularly interested in supporting and learning from projects that are engaging communities experiencing low level of community empowerment, those least able to influence the decisions that affect their lives, the services they use and the places they live.

Eligibility

Are consortia bids allowed?

Yes, we welcome consortia bids. All members in a consortium must meet the eligibility criteria. A consortium bid will be considered as one funded partner within the You Decide development partnership. We won't ask for consortium information at the expression of interest phase. If you are invited to full assessment we will ask you about your consortium.

Can the development phase activities add value to already funded projects?

Yes, as long as the activities are distinct and do not result in double funding for the same activity. Each situation would be considered on a case-by-case basis, provided the activities are additional.

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.

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.

Timeline and process

What are the next steps for applying?

- 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: End May 2025

Please note that in some cases we may need to take longer to agree the award where there may be additional governance or legal requirements related to onward granting.

Where will I find the expression of interest form?

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

What questions will I need to answer?

You will be asked to complete four 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 you key contacts. Details of these additional questions can be found on our website at: tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/youdecide

1. What would you like to do?

Give us a brief summary of the activities you'll carry out. Including whether you already have any secured funding.

2. Tell us about your organisation's experience of involving and engaging communities in making decisions.

This could be working together to decide about which projects receive grants. Or other decisions about what to support or what is important in their area or amongst their community.

3. Give us a brief summary of the activities you'll carry out. Including if you are intending on giving out grants on our behalf and the other ways that you will be working with communities.

We're happy to fund activities you're already doing. We're also happy to fund part of your work if you have some other funding for it (sometimes called match funding). But we cannot pay for work that you already have full funding for (double funding) or that has already happened (retrospective funding). Describe how involving communities in decision making will have an impact for them. This could be through building their skills, resources and ability to work together.

4. Describe the community or communities you intend to work in and with. What are current levels of engagement, voice and agency.

By this we mean who are you currently working with or talking to? Can they make their voices heard? How much say do they have in decisions locally or in their community?

5. How do you demonstrate community empowerment through your values and work? How does your organisation make sure your work is open and equitable?

We are committed to developing an equity based approach to tackling inequality. By equity we mean recognising that not every community starts with the same resources, and supporting those that need it most. We'll expect partners to work this way.

Tell us:

- how your organisation makes sure everyone has an opportunity to contribute through the work you do
- how you demonstrate equity and community empowerment through your and work. And through your organisation's culture and values.

Further support

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

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