

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 wish to clarify any points.

QUESTION	ANSWER
Eligibility of applicant	
Who can apply?	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. 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.
Can individuals apply?	No
Can businesses apply?	For profit businesses cannot apply – not for profit (CIC or social enterprises) can apply.
Can District and Parish Councils apply?	Any public sector organisation based in Cambridgeshire can apply, excluding Cambridgeshire County Council.
Can an organisation put in more than one application in the same time?	Only one application should be submitted for each funding round.
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, joint applications are encouraged but you will 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 direct 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 or have new elements. 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.</p> <p>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. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443686/BIS-15-417-state-aid-the-basics-guide.pdf</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. Please note that the maximum grant awarded for a 2-year project is 19k for Cultivate grants and 50k for Innovate grants.
Are any costs ineligible?	Costs to cover the following will not be allowed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Debts and debt service charges (interest); -Provisions for losses or potential future liabilities; -Purchases of land or buildings; -Currency exchange losses; -Projects promoting political activities -Faith groups promoting religious, non-community based activities -Projects lobbying for a particular cause or action -Deficit or retrospective funding (i.e. grants for activities which have already taken place)
Process	
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 and complete project monitoring forms. Once the grant offer has been accepted and the signed paperwork returned, payment of the first grant instalment will normally be made within 10-14 days. Most grants will be paid in quarterly tranches and will be dependent upon satisfactory progress of the project and provision of evidence of costs incurred to date. Grants under £10k will be paid in either one or two instalments.
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 awarded?	No further grant will be paid to cover unanticipated costs. Underspends of over £100 must normally be declared and repaid, subject to the discretion of the County Council.