Youth Fund Q&As

Fund criteria

**What do you class as ‘young people’?**We fund organisations working predominantly with 14-25 years olds. It’s ok if you have a broader remit with older or younger people, but this age range should be the main focus of your organisation’s work.

**Do all of the people we work with need to be in the 14-25 age range?**
We aim to fund organisations where supporting young people aged 14-25 (and in some cases, up to 30) is a key part of the work. Generally speaking, we would expect the majority of the people you already work with to be in this age range, i.e. over 50%. We do sometimes make an exception for those working in a very specialised area where there aren’t any purely youth focused organisations.

**If I’m a London-based organisation, am I unlikely to be funded?**We do fund in London so we welcome applications that fit our criteria, but please be aware that the fund is more competitive for London-based organisations. We are likely to prioritise those outside the capital, unless you are developing work which is unlikely to be found elsewhere or which will have an influence or impact beyond London.

The application process

**How many grants do you make?**We usually make around 25 grants per year.

**What is the success rate?**We are generally only able to fund around 1 in 10 applications.

**What is the average turnaround time?**We aim to reach a final decision on applications within four months of receipt.

**When should I apply?**We’d encourage you to apply as soon as you are ready. It is always useful to work backwards from when you need the funds, and allow at least four months for the application process.

**Can I have an informal chat with someone before applying?**
Due to the large number of applications we receive and the limited capacity of the team, unfortunately we’re unable to offer this. Instead we recommend you read the criteria of the Fund carefully, and review our [exclusions](https://www.phf.org.uk/funds/youth-fund/#what-we-will-not-fund) to ensure your work is a good fit before starting your application.

**If we’re invited to interview, can some of the young people we work with also attend?**Yes, absolutely!

**If I am unsuccessful, can I apply again?**You will have to wait 12 months; we will only consider applications that have been previously declined if there have been significant changes to the work or if the declination feedback comments have been specifically addressed.

Eligibility

**Do you support local or regional organisations?**We do consider regional or local organisations. The reach of the fund is UK wide (i.e. we fund organisations in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland), and not solely for organisations that work UK-wide.

**What if my organisation’s income is slightly above / below the threshold?**Unfortunately we will not make grants to organisations with an income below £30,000 or above £3.5 million.

**Does the income threshold include any grants or donations we might receive?**Yes.

**Can schools or libraries apply to the Youth Fund?**Unfortunately schools and libraries are unlikely to meet our criteria - to find out more, take a look at [What we will not fund](https://www.phf.org.uk/funds/youth-fund/#what-we-will-not-fund).

**Do you fund local authorities?**Not currently.

**Does the Youth Fund support work in the arts?**
Potentially, if the organisation meets our criteria.
You may also like to look at our [Arts Access and Participation Fund](https://www.phf.org.uk/funds/access-and-participation-fund/).

**Can newly formed organisations apply to the Fund?**
We are unable to make grants to organisations that are yet to produce independently audited accounts. We usually expect applicants to have a few years’ track record of their impact with young people and be in a position to sustain/grow/prepare to grow that impact.

Defining ‘Core costs’

**Can core costs cover the salary of more than one post?**Yes, as long as the roles are integral to your core, organisational objectives. You can read more about how we understand core costs and what we fund [here](https://www.phf.org.uk/publications/core-funding-findings-from-the-youth-fund-evaluation/).

**Can the Youth Fund be used to cover marketing or fundraising posts?**Yes, if the posts are supporting your plans tosustain/grow/prepare to grow your organisation's impact, we are happy to support strategic roles. To find out more about how we want the Fund to sustain, grow, or prepare to grow impact, see [Purpose of the Fund](https://www.phf.org.uk/funds/youth-fund/#purpose-of-the-fund).

**Can I apply to cover the costs of a new role in my organisation?**
If a role is specifically defined as a project (time bound / a new addition to your core work) then it is unlikely to be funded. If it is central to your core business then it doesn't matter whether it’s a new role.

**Would you fund trainee posts?**We’re unlikely to fund trainee posts, as it has to distinctly be core funding to support growing the impact of an organisation.

Updated 22 April 2022