

Questions received as part of information sessions

Eligibility

1. Can an organisation with a small BIF grant which ends December 2021 apply?

Yes, you can apply for a M/L grant if you currently receive a small grant. This is because the existing Small Grants are part of the first Bristol Impact Fund, not this second Fund.

2. Can a community interest organisation that is just being incorporated apply?

Yes, you can. The full list of orgs that can apply are in the guidance notes too. Please can you provide a link for the application guidance notes? The Guidance sets out how to respond if you are a newer organisation and do not have a year's worth of accounts to submit.

The detailed guidance notes will be published when the application window opens on 9th March (next Tuesday) - at the end of the presentation there is a link to the BCC webpage where the guidance will sit once published, and we will show you how to access ProContract where all the docs are available too.

3. Can we apply for part-funding for a project that already has some funding?

Yes, you can. You will be asked in Part 2 of the application form to state any other funding sources for the work you are proposing and whether these are already secured.

4. Is there a maximum turnover that means organisations are not eligible for the fund? (IE, T/O over £1m etc?)

No, there is no maximum turnover.

5. Are there any formal criteria around applying for a large or medium grant?

We have baseline standards for all organisations which you can read about on the website and in the guidance. We will do a financial risk assessment as part of the assessment process, so for example if organisation is quite young we may have to assess the risk around that.

6. If we are a new charity, do we need 1 year of accounts before applying?

You will need to put forward evidence of your financial standing again so that we can understand the level of risk depending on the amount you are applying for.

7. Are there any limits on how large/small an organisation must be to apply, i.e. min or max turnover?

No, but do look at the baseline standards and questions asked as part of the financial information in Part 1 of the application.

8. Is this for only Bristol based organisation? And can we partner with organisations based in other regions?

We prioritise Bristol-based organisations. If organisations applying are not Bristol based, we would be looking to see if it is bringing in specialist expertise into the city.

9. Did I hear correctly earlier in the presentation that the Bristol Impact Fund will only fund organisations working with young people aged 16 and over but not organisations working with younger children?

Yes, that's correct, it's a fund for age 16+ (with exception of hate crime which is for all ages).

There is some info in the guidance doc about age groups (e.g. for orgs that work with families etc)

10. With regards to baseline standards, if a lead org was to be working with 2 smaller community orgs, does the baseline standards have to be adhered to by all three or just the lead applicant?

An organisation can apply and not meet all the BL standards at the outset, but would need to commit to working towards these over the first 6 months of the grant (or we would consider 12 months in some circumstances). Essentially we want everybody to meet the standards but they can work towards these if they are an organisation “of” their community.

11. What is the best approach if you are an organisation whose work impacts on women, families and children?

The Bristol Impact Fund does not directly fund work with people who are under 16. (Bids looking to focus on hate crime are the exception to this.) For example, if you were looking to fund a day-care centre for children under 7, the Bristol Impact Fund would not fund this.

However, if you are an organisation working with women and their families and your work also impacts on children under 16, we recommend including information about this impact in the ‘added value’ section of the application.

Terminology

12. What does organisation ‘of’ mean?

By organisations ‘of’ communities of identity or experience, we mean organisations are led and controlled by a majority of people who have directly relevant lived experience in the context of the proposal, and so reflect and are ‘of’ the communities that organisation works with. These organisations have a majority of people with lived experience at all levels of their organisation including trustees, senior management, staff and volunteers. Simply engaging with a beneficiary group doesn’t mean an organisation is led by people with lived experience. (Definition is based on the definition developed by Association of Charitable foundations: https://www.acf.org.uk/downloads/Covid-19_good_practice_recommendations.pdf)

This information is in the guidance.

13. What is the definition of an equalities-led organisation?

We define organisations as equalities-led if more than 50% of the organisation’s trustees, staff and members are from an equalities group (such as Black, Asian and minority ethnic people; LGBT+ people; Disabled people; Young People and any others.

(Please see the guidance notes.)

Funding rounds (including small grants)

14. Are you only looking for 4-year duration projects or will you consider shorter projects? And will there only be this one application window or will there be more in the following years?

This application window that we are currently promoting is for medium large grants which are for the full 4 years for medium /large grants. However, there are 2 rounds of smaller

grants that are 18 months

15. Is that just one solo application over the life of the programme (2021-25) or one per year?

No, there is one application for the whole four years. There is just one opportunity to put in a medium or large grant for funding for the next four years of the application fund. Once this window is closed on the 17th May there are no further applications to put forward a medium or large application until 2025 (to be confirmed).

For small grants there will be two opportunities over the course of the Bristol Impact fund to apply. The first being for grants starting in June 2022, we expect applications to open for this is 2022.

Development phase

16. What kind of development are they looking for over the 4 year period?

If you are applying for the 9-month development phase we would expect to see:

- A broad plan for your delivery over the 4 years
- Details about what you will do in the first 9 months that will support delivery of your plan.

Examples you might include wanting to use the period to explore collaborations with other community groups or to further investigate community priorities.

See the guidance notes for more details.

Budgets

17. Can you explain a bit more about the 85% available in Y1, please? Does that mean it is advisable to apply for 15% less in Y1?

Across the whole programme there is 85% less funding in Year 1 (£1.45million compared to £1.65 million in years 2, 3 and 4). Therefore, when setting out the budget, applicants need to reflect that there is less money available in Year 1 than in Years 2-4. We will ensure that our grant allocations for Year 1 fit within our available funds.

18. Is there any feel / guidance on capital vs project (direct expenditure) vs operational (staff costs)?

BIF is not a capital fund - it is a revenue fund. A complementary capital fund called the Community Resilience Fund is likely to launch later this year. In terms of operational costs, there are no upper limits on core costs this time around.

19. Will you be offering all or nothing full funding requests or if massively over-subscribed (which I'm sure you will be!), will you offer partial amounts?

We have to retain that as an option and the allocations panel will have an overview. That's also why we ask, if you don't get money you need from match funding for example, what will you do.

20. Will you give preference to bids with match funding?

No, we aren't explicitly giving preference to bids with match funding. If your proposal requires more money that you are asking us for, we ask where you are at with raising that

money and how it would impact your proposal if you didn't get all the money.

21. Is there a preference on what the costs go towards? Project costs/core costs

The focus of the fund is to empower communities that experience the greatest inequality, therefore if the entire purpose of your organisation is to do this its entirely appropriate to include core costs in your budget template. There is no preference as such.

22. How will you determine if an organisation is of financially sound standing?

A risk assessment is done by our finance team to assess the level of risk of a particular organisation based on their annual accounts. This is only part of the decision-making process though.

23. How many grants can an organisation apply for and how will this affect the funding received?

Organisations can be part of as many partnership bids as they wish, but only one solo bid (in addition to any partnership bids they are part of). However, organisations cannot receive more than £100k funding in total.

The exception to both of these rules is bids focusing on hate crime.

Priorities

24. Can the application be both focused on a place-based approach working with participants living in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in the city's wards AND an equalities approach working with participants experiencing systematic inequality.

Yes, that's right, you can be both.

25. Can you recap on what were the 4 priorities are please?-

You MUST select the Community Building priority

'Strengthen the capacity of equalities-led groups, neighbourhood communities and people experiencing the greatest inequality'

that is compulsory. **Then** you can choose from:

- Community-identified priority – a priority that is important to your community (you must tell us why it is important)

and/or

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Hate crime support
- Digital inclusion
- Economic inclusion

26. When choosing a priority, do you just focus on 1, or can you focus on multiple areas e.g. mental health and wellbeing AND digital inclusion?

The priorities are not exclusive – you need to describe to us what work you want to do and which priorities you want to address. Can be multiple if that's relevant.

Assessment process

27. Can you explain how the scoring works and the difference for organisation "of" their community?

How we are scoring is set out in the guidance notes. If you are not an organisation "of" you

will need to score 75% of available scores in impact section, and 75% of quality, and 75% for value for money to go forward. There is a lower threshold of 66% for organisations “of” their community (see definition in the guidance and on ProContract).

28. Will the assessment panel be reflective of the equalities audience you want to reach?

We are including people with equalities insights in assessments panel and will ensure that the allocations panel is also reflective of Bristol diverse communities.

29. Will there be a weighting or preference towards consortium bids?

There is no preference for partnership applications. If that’s the most appropriate way of making the best impact by entering into partnership, then do it. We will assess like any other application.

Support available

30. Can you explain the courses that are available and how to book?

All info on support etc is available there including sign up links: _

www.bristol.gov.uk/bristolimpactfund

31. Are the ABCD workshops with Cormac Russell (Nurture Development) recorded and available?

The ABCD workshops are highly interactive and so these have not been recorded. As the sessions were so popular, the Community Resources Team will be reviewing whether or not further sessions can be run. The Nurture Development website can be found here: [ABCD Training and Resources - Nurture Development](#)

Partnership and collaboration

32. If you are in a partnership with the present fund, do you have to stay in it? Are standalone schemes treated the same?

No there is no requirement to stay in a partnership if you were in one for the first round of Bristol impact Fund. All applications have to demonstrate collaborative working. Some groups may decide that its more effective to take part in formal partnership arrangement but it’s entirely up you how you do that.

33. What do you mean by partnerships working in a ‘formal way together’ can you provide more details?

We are expecting all applications to be collaborative but you may decide to have a more formal partnership arrangement where you create a joint application- that might be a lead partnership or partnership where each member has a grant agreement with the council. Where you apply together you will need to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (a template is available on pro contract) to outline your relationship.

Comparison to the first round of Bristol Impact Fund

34. How does the size of BIF2 now compare with BIF1 as a percentage?

It is tricky to apportion an exact percentage as some pots of money have moved (for

example community transport now sits with WECA). If you remove the WECA funding from the first BIF (which was £3.28 million per year with a 15% taper in years 3 and 4, and with £690k per year ring fenced for community transport), and take a percentage of that, the percentage is just over 74.8%.

35. Can we have examples of organisations you have helped recently please?

You can find out who we have funded in previous BIF rounds here:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/grants-for-voluntary-and-community-organisations>

36. In the last Bristol Impact Fund application process, there were a few different stages for organisations to complete (such as presentations and a panel interview). Is this the case for this round of funding?

Additional stages in the application process (i.e. presentations and panel interviews) were only in place for small grants and will not apply to medium & large grants in this round of funding.

Technical points (on Guidance, ProContract)

37. Are the questions documented in the guidance notes?

Yes, all the Qs are in the guidance - the detailed guidance will be published on the 9th March, but the Overview document is already published on the website. The Overview contains some of the Qs that are asked as part of the making an impact model.

38. Can more than one person log into the pro-contract platform to complete different sections?

Yes you can have multiple users.

39. Will these slides be available? As they are succinct description of what we need to be mindful of for a bid.

Yes the slides will be available and there will be a link on our website to [a youtube video](#) of this presentation. See: www.bristol.gov.uk/bristolimpactfund

40. Can you complete the part 1 at different times, i.e. come back to your application?

Yes, you can save your application and come back to it at different times.

41. Can you send these slides to us please?

Yes we can share the slides by email and will also make them available on the webpage (www.bristol.gov.uk/bristolimpactfund)

42. Can multiple people utilise a ProContract page from our organisation. e.g. from a different computer?

Yes – you can set up a team of people on ProContract