

The Baring Foundation

Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme

Webinar Q&A 16 November 2016 & 13 December 2016

This is a summary of the questions asked by participants in two webinars that provided further details on the Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme Funding Round 2016 on 16 November 2016 and 13 December 2016. Answers from the Foundation are *italicised*.

- Can projects be led by universities?

Universities that are registered charities are eligible to apply. The project will – of course – need to demonstrate how it will engage with the broader voluntary sector.

- Can you elaborate on the details of hiring staff for the TECB stream? Would you consider an application for a new post which focused on development and strengthening of the project to include better use of human rights approach?

We will consider an application that includes a new post. However, the Training, Education and Capacity Building fund only offers grants of £30,000 for six months to two years – you should carefully consider if this is sufficient to create and sustain a new post in your organisation.

- What is the attitude to matched funding and joint funding

We welcome applications for matched or joint funding, but if an application is made on this basis a condition of the grant will be that evidence of the matched/joint funding is provided prior to the grant award.

- Would like clarification re different funds purposes...seem considerable overlap

There is likely to be an overlap between the types of work undertaken by projects from the different funds. Our focus is slightly different for each fund – the Training, Education and Capacity Building fund is process focused and the Applied Projects fund is outcomes focused. However, the key difference is our expectation for the scale and ambition of the projects. We will also look closely at the expertise of organisations applying for an Applied Project grant - if your organisation is currently developing its use of the law and human rights based approaches, you may want to focus on the Training, Education and Capacity Building fund.

- Our project would be for the maximum amount for an applied project as we are working in a large local partnership - would this disadvantage our application.

No. We accept applications up to the maximum amount and consider each application on its merits.

- Would an application that was submitted last year be accepted in this round?

If you make an application again, you should flag this at the front of your application. You should also explain how, if at all, your project has been adapted for the Funding Round 2016. We receive a very high volume of applications and fewer than 10% were successful in 2015. We expect similar interest in 2016.

- Concerned re capacity in terms of funding for IT innovation re training...not sure £30k is sufficient for real new technology innovation

Projects using IT do not need to be overly ambitious, given the level of funding. We will, of course, consider applications that involve the development of new platforms, but we welcome applications to scale current projects or to build resources into existing websites.

- Do you support full cost recovery?

Yes.

- We are a voluntary sector infrastructure organisation finding out more about this funding so that we can engage with relevant organisations. Is it possible for us to submit an application, say, to develop a training package for other VCS organisations?

Yes.

- Most organisations in the first round were small. Can larger organisations apply?

We do not have eligibility criteria for the size of charity that can apply.

- If an application has been made to one of the funding streams but actually fits in better to the other one, would you seek to move it over?

Due to the volume of applications we are likely to receive, we will assess each application against the criteria for the fund it is submitted to only.

- Can you provide further advice/guidance on joint applications ie. organisations applying working in partnership?

If you are applying in a formal partnership, the application should be made by one of the partner organisations. However, you can and should provide details of partner organisations and the partnership structure in the application. We will also accept applications that use a looser, collaborative model of working. Both approaches can develop and adapt during the course of the project.

- We work in schools in deprived areas. We are looking to develop a Peer Mediation Programme. What comments do you have about this in the context of your funding?

We will accept an application in relation to peer mediation.

- Will you accept applications for both streams from the same organisation?

Yes.

- Hi there, please can you advise when your next call for applications will open? Similarly, can you advise whether the call will have the same STVS focus?

This Funding Round closes on 23 January 2016. We intend to have a future round in late 2017/early 2018, but timing and specific focus will not be decided until Q3 2017.

- Sorry I missed the first part of the audio. If you hold an award already from the LEF and/or Esmee Fairbairn, can you apply to the Baring Foundation at the same time?

Yes.

- Is it possible to know who was successful in first round - type of organisations and work?

This is available on our website: <http://baringfoundation.org.uk/grants-awarded/>

- Will priority for applied projects be given to those who successfully applied for training, education and capacity building fund in 2015?

No. Organisations holding a training, education and capacity building grant are eligible to apply, but will be assessed on the same basis as other applications.

- Have any of the previous seven applied project grantees worked with law firms as part of their project?

Yes. We will consider applications that use pro bono and paid for advice from private law firms.

- How discrete do the target groups need to be for the capacity building projects? You mentioned refugees and BAME. Would litigants in person in the broadest sense be too broad?

We expect applicants to identify relevant target groups and we will consider an application in relation to litigants in person.

- Are there restrictions on focus on legislation relating only to one of the devolved assemblies (NI) rather than Westminster?

No. We welcome applications in relation to devolved legislation.

- Can we (a Charity) be a part of a collaborative application with another Charity as the lead Charity AND make an application in our own right to same or either fund?

Yes.

- Can an organisation apply for the applied projects fund with an intention to work in partnership with an organisation already funded by the fund?

Yes.

- Given the overlap, will there be an opportunity to discuss with you which of the two programmes would be more suitable for us to apply under?

Unfortunately, we do not provide telephone or email support in relation to specific questions on applications to the STVS Funding Round 2016. In line with feedback from our Funding Round 2015, we feel providing the same level of information and support to everyone through papers and webinars is a more fair and open way of assisting potential applicants than one to one support.

- Last time at Stage 2 a line was added to the criteria about the Foundation especially looking for 'imaginative solutions harnessing the use of technology and ICT to magnify impact'. Something similar in relation to technology required this time?

We are very keen to see applications that harness the use of technology and will certainly consider this aspect when assessing sustainability and impact.

- Do you anticipate there will be future similar rounds and what might be the timing of these?

Yes. A future round is likely to be in late 2017/early 2018, but the details will only be decided after these grants have been awarded.

- If our project proposes to work with one of your partners on another aspect of the project, do we have to have made that application before we can apply to you?

No. However, if a project is contingent on additional funding, it may be a condition of the grant that this funding is confirmed before the project starts.

- On the application form there is no section for the project name, but on the 'in progress applications' home screen the project name is the amount we are applying for annually. Is this just a glitch and therefore nothing to worry about?

This is just a glitch and nothing to worry about.

- If there are other organisations doing similar work to ours, will that present a problem with our funding application?

No. However, it will be useful if you explain how your organisation plays a specific role and how the proposed project fits your work.

- Is it possible to have a meeting or phone call to discuss which fund would be most appropriate to us?

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- Examples of projects for "capacity building for organisations"?

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- I'm still a little unclear on the law and HRBA criteria. Would you consider an application to run training to the corporate (and other) sectors to deliver disability awareness training for example?

We have a particular focus on the voluntary sector, so this should form an aspect of your application.

- Will organisations with a large yearly income be viewed adversely for the TECB grant?

No.

- We are keen to build both the capacity of BME orgs but also to build the capacity of 'duty bearers' (public authorities) in Y2-3 - to hold them to account. Will you support both aspects?

We accept that there is a complex relationship between civil society organisations and public authorities of all kinds. We do expect the focus of projects to be on collaborations and partnerships between civil society, but know that working with public bodies will also play a part in many projects.

- Can you give us some examples of projects previously funded under the training education and capacity building strand?

This is available on our website: <http://baringfoundation.org.uk/grants-awarded/>

- We are a group of people involved in the Inquiry into Undercover Policing, under the Inquiry Act 2005. We want to make the most of that for people spied upon. Would that fit your programme?

We do not have a thematic to the fund, so will consider applications in relation to all areas of law that can tackle discrimination and disadvantage.

- What are your criteria for turnover in relation to grant size?

We do not have criteria for turnover.

- Will an application linked to working with a law firm be considered bearing in mind this area was funded in last round?

Yes.

- Would you consider an application from a C.A.B. office in Scotland be considered? Our Council grant has been dramatically reduced and our demand increased, & would you consider core support which if not in place presents us from undertaking our specialist.

We will accept applications from CAB, but do not offer core support.

- Given the uncertainty surrounding future change relating to Brexit, how do you envision this impacting on outcome in terms of projects looking at this?

We accept that outcomes will be challenging for Brexit-related work – we aim to be a flexible funder, so encourage our grantees to discuss shifting outcomes in response to circumstances. You can highlight that uncertainty as part of the application.

- If there are multiple ways our project could develop, are we free to get in touch to discuss?

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- As prisons are currently in crisis, would you consider funding work to promote law and human rights for a minority group within the criminal justice system?

Yes.

- Can one organisation apply for both funding pots?

Yes.

- Our work involves facilitation of weekly groups and we also work with subgroups of the community. Are there some areas of our work that you would be more interested in supporting? Eg. one idea we have is to build on our existing work with Roma people as our experience tells us that members of the Roma community are more likely to live in conditions of extreme poverty, exploitation, with lower life expectancy and vulnerable now post-Brexit. Would this be something you'd be interested in funding?

We do not have a thematic approach to this funding round and encourage applications in relation to all communities.

- Measuring outcome and how this will be judged.

This varies between the funds, but both require you to list three key outcomes. We are looking for realistic outcomes and accept that these will often be very focused.

- We are a small charity that supports families affected by deafness. Our project is to breakdown access barriers for deaf parents. I am concerned that this won't have the broader application you are looking for. Other 2nd language parents?

We will certainly consider applications to support families affected by deafness, but applications will also need to meet our broader criteria for each fund.