Why The Ideas Fund?
Question & Answers – Webinar 2 Edition

Here are some of the questions and answers that were raised between our Second webinar and workshops in March (see the video here and summary and reflection sheets here). If in any doubt, please don't hesitate to get in touch with The Ideas Fund or the Development Coordinators

Questions on researchers

"Please explain the role of the researcher in each project."

This was discussed in more detail in the second webinar, from 4:59 at the link here, and within the different panel and case study discussions. If you have other queries, please do get in touch with your Development Co-ordinator.

"Hi, is it our responsibility to find our own researcher or will Paolo be able to do this for us? We've already engaged with Paolo (just awaiting on a reply)."

People can find their own researchers, if they already have links or feel confident in getting in touch to start the conversation with researchers. But Development Co-ordinators (including Paolo) can also help look to see if there's a relevant researcher to match with your idea.

"Can the researcher be someone from within your organisation?"

If you already work with a researcher that's OK. It needs to be someone with research experience but can be based within the community sector. An important aspect of the Fund is about developing relationships between communities and researchers, and putting these on a more equal footing. If it's a colleague then we would likely want to understand why this isn't a collaboration that is able to happen without this funding. Researchers can come from Universities, charities and other types of organisation too, but we would want to see this as partnership.

Questions on community definitions

"How are you defining community? I am an individual member of a community but somewhat isolated and it is sometimes difficult to build wider links."

We think a community is a group of people who share something in common. While the projects have to be delivered in one of our four target areas, community can be more narrowly within that - shared identity, interests or a more specific location like a village or an estate.

"Are communities defined geographically?"

Projects have to be delivered in one of our four target locations, but within that, community can be defined more narrowly, including identity, interests or a really defined geography like a village or an estate.

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Questions on available grants

"Does this mean you will be awarding 12-15 grants in 4 areas?"

Yes approximately 12-15 grants in each area.

Mental wellbeing & loneliness definitions

"Can you please share the definition of mental wellbeing?"

"Can you just clarify the difference between social and emotional loneliness please?"

" *You care about yourself and for yourself. You look after your physical and emotional health – by eating well, sleeping well, exercising, connecting with others and enjoying yourself. You can cope with the stresses of life and can work productively - whether that's in a job, in education or through chores and hobbies.* "

Here's a link to the guide on measuring loneliness produced by the What Works Centre for Wellbeing

Here is the diagram with definitions of lonely, isolated, alone, and solitude

Questions on COVID-19 measures

"Will our research ideas have to take into account face to face contact in relation to social distancing and the pandemic - am interested in looking at collaborative art-based work between older and younger age groups - will a research project have to build in distancing measures, or are we able to foresee a project that is perhaps post-Covid? (whatever post-Covid means)"

As part of the application, we will be asking people to consider (very briefly) how their project might adapt to a requirement to social distance, or in the event of future lockdowns.

Questions on the webinars

"Is a recording of webinar available afterwards, not just a transcript?"

Yes, the link to the webinar can be found **here**.

Questions on research accessibility

"How do we ensure that any research from projects is accessible to the community? I don't just mean by ensuring it's online/ freely available. I mean keeping the research jargon-free and not only being accessible to other researchers/ academics through the language which is employed by researchers?"

This is something you could explore with a researcher – looking at how to make research more accessible could be an eligible project idea.

The What Works Centre for Wellbeing does briefings, blogs, and even a podcast to help make their work more accessible.

Questions on engagement challenges

"We talk about engaging communities but rural Highland communities are introvert and extremely proud. We have tried so many times to engage, but failed. How can community engagement be initiated? Any ideas?"

Sorry that we didn't get time to put this to our speakers on the webinar! We are really interested in supporting ideas that come from communities themselves through the Ideas Fund. Please do contact Lewis, who is the Development Co-ordinator for the Highlands and Islands, at lewis@scienceceilidh.com to talk about your idea in more detail. You may also be able to get further insights from our next central webinar, on 18 March.

Questions on mentioned examples

"What was name of the project Sarah-Anne spoke of, about access to community green space?"

A little film about the greenspace project is here although this is more focused on the hospital staff aspect than the community aspect. **More links can be found on the reflection sheet for webinar 2.**

"Where can I find more information/ examples on the mapping technique?"

This link gives some information. **More links can be found on the reflection sheet for webinar 2.**

Idea development (specific example)

"Hi, our community is based in a remote, rural area of Argyll & Bute. We are just about to conclude the community buy-out of an old school. We want to rejuvenate the community by providing a much-needed hub for activities. One of our projects is weaving, like many parts of Scotland weaving was a part of the heritage of the area. We have been donated looms and have a large space that we want to devote to weaving with the hope of engaging all members of the community, across generations and gender to create, design and make items. We would like to link up with a researcher to see how we can work together to realise the benefits this activity can offer. We are dealing with issues of loneliness and isolation in this area. We are also coping with an aging population."

Thanks for telling us about your idea! If you need help identifying a researcher, you'll want to have a conversation with Lewis who is the Development Co-ordinator for the Highlands and Islands. You can contact him at lewis@scienceceilidh.com