

Here are some of the questions and answers that were raised between our third 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 about budget

"Are you allowed to get match funding?"

It's fine to have match funding from another source, but it is not required.

"Can this fund a project officer to run the project?"

Staff costs and researcher costs are both eligible to include in your budget. You can find more information about what you can and can't include in your budget in our [FAQs](#).

"Do you have to budget for the cost of researchers' time when submitting your application?"

Questions about applying & support

"Will there be any feedback for applications that are not funded?"

We will aim to offer feedback on proposals wherever possible.

"Are you able to be a partner in more than one bid?"

You are able to be a partner in more than one bid. Given the levels of interest in the fund it is unlikely that multiple bids would be successful, and you may need to think about priorities in terms of the time and effort that it takes to put them together.

"Will the Ideas Fund be open again in future years?"

The Ideas Fund is a pilot programme, so there are no specific plans at the moment.

"Will there be other times available with the Development Coordinators?"

You can find the contact details for all our local Development Coordinators on our website [here](#). You are welcome to get in touch to talk to them about your ideas, and they'll be able to let you know if they have any upcoming workshops in your area.

"Can I have a contact for Roisin McLaughlin?"

Questions on the role of the researcher

"Is it possible for the applicant to be both facilitator of the arts-based project and researcher?"

"Can the researcher be part of the same applicant organisation or do they have to be an independent researcher?"

"The term researcher sounds very academic. Does it have to be an academic researcher or can it be someone who works, say, in the creative sector or art therapy?"

"What is expected of the research partner... is it more PPI, co-production to share the idea (sharing of expertise, knowledge) and is there an expectation to research evaluate the project (pre-post pilot outcomes, qualitative interviews with participants)? Is there a research report required at the end?"

"Can someone explain exactly what the researcher does please? I am still not clear."

"How often would the project team and researcher meet?"

An important aspect of the Fund is about developing relationships between communities and researchers, and putting these on a more equal footing, so the project would need to be a partnership of some sort. Please contact your local Development Coordinator to discuss your idea in more detail. The researcher doesn't need to be based in a University, but they do need to have a record of carrying out and publishing research.

The main aspect of this fund is about the benefits of researchers and communities working together to build a relationship and both develop skills, and you can hear more in our second webinar [here](#). The specific role of the researcher will depend on the idea, and there are lots of possibilities. This could include collaborating to learn about or build on the researcher's work, applying research findings in practice or working together to make resources based on previous research. These are just examples, so speak to your local Development Coordinator if you have other ideas for your project.

It's unlikely that you would be successful if the researcher is just providing a service like an evaluation, or doing a one-off activity like a workshop. Equally, we can't fund a project which is just research where there is no opportunity for communities to build their skills and/or where the community are purely involved as research participants. We are interested in projects where the communities and researchers will be learning from each other, and sharing their knowledge and skills.

How the community and researcher work together will depend on your project and how you want to collaborate, including how regularly you meet. We would expect you to be working together throughout the project.

Questions on the role of the researcher (cont'd)

"Can you have more than one academic partner?"

"Once relationships are developed and built between a researcher and community, does this relationship end after the project?"

Which researchers collaborate on a project will depend on what the idea is and who needs to be involved to make it successful. We don't have any rules about how many researchers should be involved. You might need to think about any implications for your budget, and the best way of all working together.

One of the things we want to achieve with this Fund is creating lasting relationships between communities and researchers – we hope this makes future collaboration more likely and that the relationship may continue beyond our funding.

Questions about criteria and eligibility

"Can the length of grant be clarified?"

"How long do you expect longer projects to last?"

"How long can the project run for?"

"Please clarify the regional allocation for the funds. For example, we are in West Yorkshire so we would not meet the regional criteria but we could work with other who are within the area of remit?"

"Are projects able to cross over more than one location?"

"What are the key aims of the fund? (What are you looking for that will increase the likelihood for receiving funding?)"

We expect early stage projects to last around 6 to 9 months, and more developed ideas to last around 12 to 18 months.

We're looking for projects which are led by the community and take place in one of our four target areas. We would expect that applicants would have an existing relationship or link to the area, so it's likely that projects will be based in only one region. Please contact your Development Coordinator to discuss your idea in more detail.

We talk about this in the first webinar – you can watch back the recording and see a summary on our blog [here](#). You can also find out more about eligibility on our [website](#).

Questions about criteria and eligibility (cont'd)

"Is it possible to have a collaboration between perspectives? E.g. researcher, community and a SME?"

"I'm founder and Chair of an environmental charity - we do so much more than beach cleans! We campaign, educate, inform and inspire, but we need to find the size of the problem. We are looking for funding to explore all the shores of the islands using boats and drones. This will deliver a HUGE amount of info and data (as well as marine litter). I'll be looking to find researchers to deal with all this data and how we can use it. Is this the sort of project that you fund?"

"Who will evaluate the project – and in particular community and researcher working together? Would we do this ourselves and would we get help?"

Projects should be community led, focus on mental wellbeing and involve communities and researchers working together. You can talk about your specific project idea with our Development Coordinators who will be able to give you more guidance on eligibility.

We will be working with a Learning Partner for the Fund, to help us understand the experience of communities and researchers working together. We're working on the detail of this at the moment. Projects can also include evaluation costs in their budget if this is important for them.