



Improving Lives

March 2024

If you have any questions about this form, don't hesitate to get in touch on advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk or 0300 123 7110.

Sample only - if you would like a full application form please get in touch with us talk about your ideas at advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk or on 0300 123 7110

This programme will close for applications 12 noon, Wednesday 21st August 2024

Guidance on the three approaches

In Scotland, we believe that the following **three approaches** are vital to help us deliver National Lottery funding that empowers communities and reduces inequality and we will fund activity that embraces these.



- **People-led** - meaningfully involving the people you're working with in the development, design and delivery of your activity.
- **Strengths-based** - making the most of, and building on, the skills and experiences of people and assets within communities.
- **Connected** - having a good understanding of what others are doing locally, developing good working relationships and complementing and adding value to other relevant activity in your area.

We will ask you to tell us how you will demonstrate these **three approaches** in your activity. This will be important when we consider your application.

You can find [examples of how organisations have demonstrated the three approaches in their work on our website](#)

Guidance on Improving Lives

a) What's it about?

Many people experience challenges at some point in their lives and we want to support activity that helps them overcome these difficulties and become more resilient.

We will fund activity to achieve the following three outcomes:

- People are better able to identify ways to take control over their lives and build resilience
- People are able to shape the activities and services they use to better meet their needs
- People have more access to support and opportunities to improve their lives

b) What types of activity can be funded?

Funding is available for activity which:

- Supports children, young people and families currently experiencing challenging circumstances
- Supports people who have experienced abuse
- Tackles loss, isolation or loneliness
- Supports people that experience discrimination and/or works to challenge discrimination
- Supports people facing financial hardship

We welcome activity that takes, or includes, a preventative approach to these issues.

The types of activity we will fund may change over time so if you've had this application form for some time please contact us again before starting your application.

c) Who can apply?

Most organisations are eligible to apply but we're particularly keen to see applications from smaller organisations working at a local level that we haven't been able to fund previously.

Existing National Lottery Community Fund grantholders can apply but you can usually only have one Improving Lives grant at a time.

You need a board or committee with at least three members who are not related

Related can mean:

- related by marriage
- in a civil partnership with each other
- in a long-term relationship with each other
- related through a long term partner
- living together at the same address
- related by blood.

All companies who apply must have at least two directors who are not related in any of these ways. This also applies to companies that are also registered as charities.

d) How much can you ask for?

You can request funding of between £20,001 and £200,000

e) What can you apply for?

You can apply for funding for up to three years to improve or continue existing services, or to develop new activity.

Although we welcome applications with match funding, we can fund up to 100 per cent of the costs of activity including staff, training, volunteer expenses, equipment, premises costs, evaluation and overheads. We can fund up to £50,000 for relevant minor capital costs such as building refurbishment or landscaping work as part of your overall activity.

We won't fund mainstream employability support such as job search and there are some things we can't pay for, such as anything you spend money on before you get a decision from us, activities outside the UK and activities that actively promote religion. Check with us if you are unsure.

f) What will we assess your application on?

The information you provide in this form is a starting point and we'll contact you to discuss your application further during assessment. As well as considering how your activity fits with the outcomes for this funding, we'll look at:

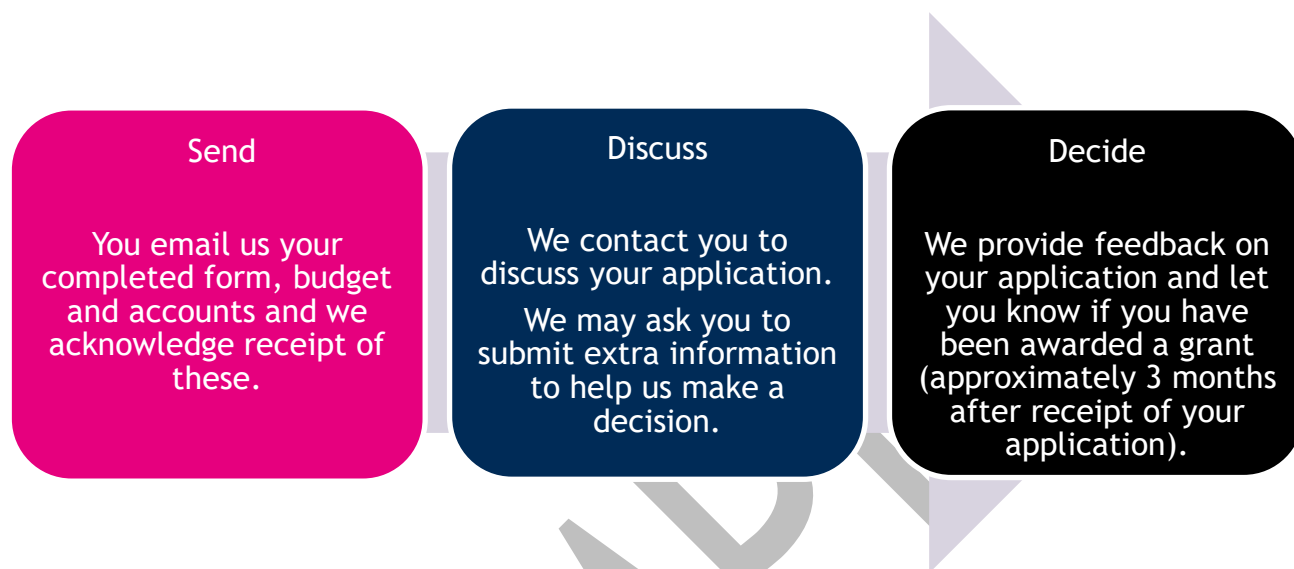
- How your activity demonstrates people-led, strengths-based and connected approaches
- How relevant it is for the participants
- The capacity of your organisation to deliver it

For more detail on what we are looking for download the [sample application form on our website](#). This will help you when you're completing your application.

g) What happens when?

We'd like to talk to you about your ideas before sending you an application form so we can give you advice on whether or not this funding is right for what you want to do. This will also enable us to identify and provide extra support if you need it.

You can contact us at advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk or 0300 123 7110 to talk about your ideas or if you have any questions about completing your application form.



Please note - this is a sample form which includes help notes at some questions to assist you when completing your application. If you want to apply please contact us to discuss your idea and request an application form.

Your application

Your organisation

1. What is the full legal name of your organisation, as shown on your governing document?

Please check this if the full legal name you provide is incorrect it may delay assessment of your application.

2. If your organisation uses a different name in your day-to-day work, what is it?

3. What would you like to call your application/activity?

Give a short title, something we can use in publicity if you are successful.

You can write up to 70 characters (including spaces).

What do you want to do?

4. Summarise what you want to use this funding for. Tell us:

- what you'll do
- who your activity is aimed at
- how you'll deliver it
- what difference your activity will make

Your answer should be between 300 and 600 words

Help note: Use this section to concentrate on providing detail about what you would deliver with this funding and the people who will be taking part.

Don't use it to provide lots of information about your organisation (you can do this at Q13) or the background to this application. You can use bullet points here (and in other questions) if you find that's an easier way for you to provide information.

5. Estimate how many people and volunteers (where relevant) your activity will involve.

This should be for the life of your activity not each year.

Number of people who will take part in your activity	
Number of volunteers involved in your activity	

Help note: Some applications will be for activities where it isn't appropriate to involve volunteers. Enter 0 if this isn't relevant for your project

6. Why do you want to do this?

Tell us how you know this activity is the right thing for the people taking part. Tell us about discussions you've had with potential participants and any other information you've gathered to find out if this is the best thing to do. This could include research you've undertaken and learning from previous work you've done in this area.

Your answer should be between 300 and 500 words

Help note: We'd like you to tell us how you know this activity is needed and relevant for the people taking part. For example:

- Have you identified a gap?
- Have people told you this is something that they want in their area?
- Has previous experience shown you that this type of activity is successful?
- Explain how previous work that you and/or others have undertaken informed what you want to do and how you'll deliver it (including if relevant, responding to COVID-19)

Don't use this section to give us general statistics about the area or people.

7. Where do the people live who will participate in your activity?

If the people are in one local authority area, complete one row and put 100 per cent. If the people are in more than one area, use more rows and estimate a percentage for each one.

You can enter up to five areas in the table. If there are more than this select the top five.

Local authority name	% per area

8. When are you planning to start and finish your activity?

Your start date should be at least three months after the date you send us your application but if your activity needs to start earlier than this, your Funding Officer will speak to you during assessment.

Help note: this is just an estimate of your dates and can be changed later

Start date	DD/MM/YYYY
Finish date	DD/MM/YYYY

The three approaches

People-led

9. How will you involve people in the development and running of your activity?

Tell us how people participating will be involved in shaping and delivering your activity where appropriate.

Your answer should be between 300 and 500 words

Help note: involvement will take different formats depending on the people taking part and the type of activity but it might be useful to think about the different stages of your activity and involvement of people at each stage.

For example:

- How have previous or potential participants been involved in planning and development?
- How will you ensure people taking part have an active role in shaping activity?
- Are participants (or their families/carers) involved in the board or steering groups? Or volunteering?
- How do you gather and implement feedback from participants?

Strengths-based

10. How will you build on the strengths of the people participating in your activity?

Tell us how you will identify and build on the skills, experience and interests of people to help them become more resilient and take control over their lives.

Your answer should be between 300 and 500 words

Help note: we want to know how you will identify the strengths of the people taking part and how you will use these to help them achieve their potential. Strengths of people could include their skills, knowledge, experience, relationships, qualities and talents. We also want to know about any other strengths or assets you'll use in your activity or tap into, such as local resources, networks or volunteers.

Connected

11. How will you connect with other relevant organisations, services and activities in your area?

Tell us about your existing connections and how you'll develop relationships that will improve the overall provision, support and opportunities for the people participating in your activity.

Your answer should be between 300 and 500 words

Help note: this shouldn't just be a list of organisations you know about. We want to know about how you'll actively be working with others to improve provision for participants.

Tell us:

- How your activity is linked to other organisations in your area?
- How do these connections help the people participating in your activity?
- How what you're planning to deliver complements and adds value to existing provision?
- If there is already something similar in your area, tell us why your activity is also needed

Delivering your activity

12. Where will your activity take place?

This helps us understand where Lottery money is making a difference. If your activity will take place in more than one location, select the main one. If you haven't identified exactly where it will take place yet, please enter your organisation's address.

Building name (or number) and street	Postcode

13. Tell us about the skills and expertise you already have to help you deliver this activity and anything else you plan to put in place to meet any development needs.

You can include costs in your application to develop the capacity of your organisation including staff training and assistance to help you adapt or redesign your services.

Your answer should be between 300 and 500 words

Help note: this is an opportunity to tell us about your experience as an organisation to deliver this type of activity and the skills and experience of your staff. You can also provide information about anything else you plan to put in place to develop the capacity of your organisation such as training for staff/volunteers and your board.

Also provide information about the experience of any other organisations you're going to be working with to deliver this activity.

14. Will your activity include building work or land development?

Yes No

If yes, you should own it or hold a lease that cannot be brought to an end by the landlord for at least five years. We may ask to see evidence of ownership, lease or planning permission as part of our assessment.

If you are requesting funding for adaptations to a building to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, please ensure that your work is in line with current Scottish Government guidelines.

15. Do you have planning consent and all other necessary statutory consents in place for this?

Yes No Not required

16. How much will your activity cost and how much would you like from us?

Complete the table below to provide a summary of your costs. We also want to see a **detailed breakdown of your budget which you should send us with your application.**

[Further information on eligible costs and a sample of a budget breakdown](#) can be found on our website

[Information on how to calculate your overheads](#) can also be found on our website

Help note: If you have, or are applying for funding from other sources provide details in the middle row.

Funding Breakdown	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Amount from the TNL Community Fund				£0.00
Other funding				£0.00
Total costs				£0.00

Your current finances

17. Please provide figures from your latest approved accounts

Select one option and fill in the amounts from your accounts or projection.

- Information from the latest accounts approved by your organisation.
- 12 month projections because you've been running less than 15 months. This should give your expected income and expenditure for the 12 months from the date your organisation was set up.

All organisations should complete this section.

Accounting year ending		DD/MM/YYYY
Total income for the year	£	
Total expenditure for the year	£	
Surplus or deficit at the year-end	£	
Total savings or reserves at the year-end	£	

Please send us a copy of your most recent accounts or projection with your application, unless you have already sent them to us in the past 12 months. All organisations except local authorities should send us this information.

Help note: if you're not sure if you've sent accounts to us in the last 12 months please contact us.

Your organisation contact details

18. What is the main or registered address for your organisation?

If you are successful, this is where we'll send our offer letter, so make sure you can safely receive post at this address. We recommend this is your organisation's office address, but if you don't have an office, this may be a home address.

Help note: you need to provide 2 telephone numbers. One can be a mobile number but one must be a landline

Address	
Postcode	
Phone number one	
Phone number two or text phone	
Website	
Social media page(s)	

19. What is the main email address for your organisation?

This should be the email address people use to contact your organisation. It can be a personal email address if your organisation doesn't have its own email address.

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20. What type of organisation are you?

Select all options that are relevant to you.

Charity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Company or mutual society	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public sector	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other

Give any reference or registration numbers you have:

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator or Charity Commission
Companies House
Health Authority number
Other reference or registration numbers

21. Is your organisation independent, or a branch or department of a larger organisation?

- Independent
 Branch or department

If it is a branch or department, tell us the name of the larger organisation

22. How many people are on the board or committee that runs your organisation?

Help note: there must be at least three people that are not related people on your board. By related we mean:

- related by marriage
- in a civil partnership with each other
- in a long-term relationship with each other
- related through a long term partner
- living together at the same address
- related by blood.

23. Working with children, young people and vulnerable adults

If you are applying for a project to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults, you need to be sure they will be safe.

We would expect you to:

- prioritise the safety and wellbeing of all children and adults at Risk who come into contact with your organisation (including contact with your centres, projects, staff and/or volunteers)
- ensure Children and Adults at Risk are given a voice by creating an environment and providing opportunities for Children and Adults at Risk to tell you what you are doing well, what risks there are to them and how you can help keep them and others safe.
- clearly outline to all the people in your organisation (permanent and fixed-term employees, non-executive committee members, agency staff, interns, volunteers,

contractors and consultants) your mandatory policies and processes and a code of conduct that keep Children and Adults at Risk safe.

- have a tailored, up-to-date procedure for reporting concerns and disclosures that everyone knows about and feels confident in applying (including not just the people in your organisation but also the carers or guardians of the Children and Adults at Risk who come into contact with your organisation and, where appropriate, the Children and Adults at Risk themselves).

If your funded project involves working in regulated activity with Children and Adults at Risk, you will also consider:

- having one or more nominated member of staff (a Designated Safeguarding Lead) who has the knowledge and skills to promote safe environments for Children and Adults at Risk and is able to respond to concerns and disclosures.
- ensuring everyone understands their safeguarding roles and responsibilities and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to concerns and disclosures relating to the protection of Children and Adults at Risk.
- using safe and transparent recruitment processes including (1) an appropriately detailed DBS/PVG check for staff who come into contact with Children and Adults at Risk (2) obtaining references that confirm that the referees are not aware of any reason why the applicant should not work with Children and Adults at Risk (3) up-to-date, proportionate safeguarding training for people in your organisation.
- conducting safeguarding risk assessments and provide guidance for your organisation, locations, projects and processes to enable a safe, inclusive environment for all Children and Adults at Risk we support. This could include guidance on taking Children and Adults at Risk away on trips, consents required, the ratio of adults to Children and Adults at Risk, transport safety and emergency procedures and guidance on Children and Adults at Risk who require medication and consideration of the Prevent Duty.

If your project will be working with one of these groups, tick this box to confirm that your organisation has the relevant policies in place

We recommend that you visit the [NSPCC website](#) which provides a range of child safeguarding advice and information services for the whole of the UK.

Should you be successful in your application, we would expect you to adhere to our expectations as set out in the [Grantholder policy around Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk](#)

Keeping Lottery money safe

We use the personal information below to carry out some basic identity checks as part of our standard fraud prevention process. All organisations, including statutory organisations, need to provide this.

Our identity check may appear on a credit report, but it's not a credit check and can only be seen by the person we're checking, so their credit rating **will not** be affected. You can find out more in our [Guide to Risk Analysis, available on our website](#).

Your contacts

We need some personal details for **two different people** related to your application - a **main contact** (the person we'll usually deal with) for your application and a **senior contact** (who must be an office bearer of your organisation).

These two people cannot be related. Related can mean:

- related by marriage
- in a civil partnership with each other
- in a long-term relationship with each other
- related through a long term partner
- living together at the same address
- related by blood.

24. Please provide a main contact for your application.

They must be someone who works or volunteers for your organisation.

Title	
Forename	
Surname	
Date of birth	
Job title or position	
Home address	
Postcode	

Help note: check that this is their home address NOT the address of your organisation

Daytime phone	
Evening phone	
Mobile number	
Email	

The email address should be one they use in your organisation.

If they have lived at the above address for less than three years please give their previous address.

Address	
Postcode	

Please tell us if your main contact has any communication needs.

25. Please provide a senior contact for your application.

This needs to be a different person from your main contact and they must be over 18 years old. This person is responsible for ensuring that this application is supported by the organisation applying, the funded activity is delivered and that the organisation keeps us updated on progress.

Title	
Forename	
Surname	
Date of birth	

What is their job title or position?

The senior contact must hold one of the following positions. Tick just one box:

Company	<input type="checkbox"/> director or	<input type="checkbox"/> company secretary
Local authority or health body	<input type="checkbox"/> chief executive or	<input type="checkbox"/> director
All other types of organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> chair or	<input type="checkbox"/> vice chair or <input type="checkbox"/> treasurer

Home address	
Postcode	

Help note: check that this is their home address NOT the address of your organisation

Daytime phone	
Evening phone	

Mobile number

Email

If they have lived at the above address for less than three years please give their previous address.

Address

Postcode

Please tell us if your senior contact has any communication needs.

SAMPLE

Who is your activity aimed at?

This section helps us understand who will be participating in your activity. There are no “correct” answers to these questions and we don’t use this information to assess your application.

1. Is your activity targeted at a specific group of people? Yes No

- If yes, please provide further details below about who your activity is targeted at
- If no, you don’t need to complete the rest of this section

2. Will your activity be targeted at people with a disability? Yes No

3. Will your activity be targeted at people identifying as Lesbian or Gay or Bisexual?
 Yes No

4. If your activity is targeted at people from a particular ethnic background? Please tell us which:

White

- Scottish/English/Welsh/Northern Irish/UK
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other white background

Asian, Asian UK

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

Black/African/ Caribbean/ Black UK

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background

Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Any other

Mixed/Multiple ethnic background (people whose parents are of a different ethnic background to each other)

5. If your activity targets people of a particular gender please indicate which:

- Male Female

6. Will your activity target people identifying with a gender differing to that assigned at birth?

- Yes No

7. If your activity targets people from a particular age group please indicate which of the following:

- 0-5 years 13-25 years 65+ years
- 6-12 years 26-64 years

8. If your activity targets people of a particular religion or belief please indicate which:

<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/> Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> No religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Data protection

The National Lottery Community Fund is a public body with a duty to distribute National Lottery and other money in grants for good causes. We use the personal data you provide, such as contact details for individuals at your organisation, to help you apply for a grant and to assess your application. We may also carry out checks on the individuals as described below. If a grant is awarded, we will use the personal data to manage and monitor the grant, carry out evaluations and research, and to check the money is being used appropriately.

We may share your personal data with organisations which help us with our grant making activities or others which have a legitimate interest in our work or have funded your grant. We will only share personal data which they need to carry out their work and subject to appropriate safety measures.

We may keep in contact with you throughout the life of your grant and send you advice about your grant by email. This will contain useful information on a range of things including how to publicise your grant, information on other funding available and project ideas and tips from other grant holders.

Our Data Protection and Privacy Notice gives more information about how we store and use personal data and the lawful basis for this. Please read the [full Data Protection and privacy Notice which is published on our website](#) or contact us to request a hard copy. The Notice may be updated from time to time.

Freedom of information

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives members of the public the right to request any information that we hold. This includes information received from third parties, such as, although not limited to grant applicants, grant holders and contractors. Please read our [full freedom of information policy published on our website](#). This policy may be updated from time to time.

If you think that there is information in your application that may be exempt from release if requested, then you should let us know when you apply. We will not usually release information about your project whilst it is being assessed. Otherwise we will use our judgement as to whether any exemptions may apply, which we may seek your opinion on. Personal information would be withheld subject to the requirements of data protection laws.

Our approach to fraud

We know the vast majority of the many thousands who seek and use our funding are genuine. However, we sometimes receive fraudulent applications and so we have a duty to carry out checks on individuals at organisations which apply for grants.

The personal information we have collected from you will therefore be shared with fraud prevention agencies who will use it to prevent fraud and money-laundering and to verify your identity. If fraud is detected, you could be refused certain services, finance or employment.

Further details of how your information will be used by us and these fraud prevention agencies, your data protection rights and how to contact us, can be found in our full [Data Protection and Privacy Notice which is published on our website](#). Contact us to request a hard copy.

Final steps before you send your application

By submitting this application you confirm that:

- if your activity will involve working with children, young people or vulnerable adults you have the relevant policies and processes in place
- the senior contact and the board or committee that runs the organisation have authorised this application
- you agree we may use the information you have provided for the purposes described under our [Data Protection and Sharing Policy which you can find on our website](#)
- you accept that if information about this application is requested under the Freedom of Information Act we will release it in line with our [Freedom of Information Policy which is on our website](#).

If you are unable to view the information on Data Protection and Freedom of Information and need a copy of our policies please contact us at **0300 123 7110**

Please check you have answered all questions as we can't start assessing your application until it's fully complete.

Once you're sure your application is complete

Email ILmedium@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk putting the name of your organisation into the email subject line.

Please send us the following documents only:

- completed application form
- a breakdown of your budget (spreadsheet or any other format)
- a copy of your latest annual accounts (or 12 month projection) unless you have sent them to us in the last 12 months or you are a local authority

Please don't send any other information at this stage.

If you have any questions about Improving Lives funding or any part of the application form please contact us advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk or **0300 123 7110**

If you have hearing loss and/or a speech impairment, please access our Text Relay service on **18001 plus 0300 123 7110**

For office use only

GMS Enquiry no:

Date issued: xxxxxxxxxx