



Place Based Social Action FAQ

1. What is the Place Based Social Action Programme?

The Place Based Social Action programme is a joint £4.5 million investment between the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and the Big Lottery Fund (the Fund) using National Lottery funding. It aims to support local partnerships to use social action to address issues and priorities that matter to people in their community. Partnerships should be established in their local area and could include community members, representatives from VCSE organisations, Local Authority representatives, local businesses, charities and Clinical Community Groups.

2. What is social action?

Social action is about people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities. It involves people giving their time and other resources for the common good. This can be in a range of forms, from volunteering and community owned services to simple neighbourly acts.

3. What issues can local partnerships use the funding to address?

Local partnership could use the funding to address some of the following:

- a local priority as defined by local people
- the ability of local people and organisations to take action on the issues that matter to them
- encourage new ways of working, so that people who live and work in an areas have more meaningful influence and ownership over local services

You can see more examples in the Social Action Typology on our website <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pbsa> and by going to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enabling-social-action-guidance>.

4. What criteria are you using to assess applications and make decisions?

Applicants should have an evidence based understanding of the local priorities and challenges they are trying to address. They should be able to demonstrate that a high degree of existing trust and cross-sector working relationships are already in place.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate engagement and commitment from a range of partners (including community groups or informal networks), as well as evidence of how working together previously has already made a measurable impact.

We are looking for applications from places where local communities are willing to make a commitment to integrating their approach with other relevant government, and non-government initiatives, for example, National Citizens Service and Community Organisers.

5. Why is the Big Lottery Fund working with DCMS on this programme?

The programme will support the Big Lottery Fund's commitment to supporting communities to flourish by delivering the change they want to see locally. It will support DCMS' commitment to enable and build demand for social action to become routine in communities, and in public service design and delivery.

6. When will the funding be available until?

The funding will be available until December 2024 enabling successful partnerships to continue to deliver their local action plans independently.

7. Who will manage and administer the funding?

The programme will be administered and managed by the Big Lottery Fund.

8. Who can apply for the funding?

We are inviting expressions of interest from local partnerships in order to make a final selection of up to 20 successful applicants to participate in the phase 1 of the programme and create a shared vision and plan, setting out how high impact social action can help respond to local priorities.

Local partnerships could include community members, representatives from VCSE organisations, Local Authority representatives, local businesses, local charities and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

We will only consider one application from each Local Authority area and submitted applications must be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Local Authority. By Local Authority we mean lower tier and single tier Local Authorities. A full list of these are published on our website.

Local Authorities can be a member of the local partnership but not the lead applicant.

9. Why are you only accepting one application per Local Authority area?

We are asking local authorities to use their knowledge and expertise of their communities to put forward the application which has the potential to make the greatest impact. This is in line with our strategy of putting people in the lead and acknowledging that the greatest expertise of what is required in a community comes from within that community.

We are limiting applications to one per Local Authority area. In order to provide a fair opportunity to all applicants and ensure that all local partnerships are taken into full consideration.

This approach will also ensure the strongest cases for funding are put forward, maximising the benefit for local communities and minimising the risk of organisations spending time on applications unnecessarily.

CEOs who receive more than one application for support should consider which application they wish to endorse or whether they would like to suggest a joint partnership between the applicants.

10. How much funding will be available to partnerships?

- At Phase 1, up to £5,000 will be available for up to 20 partnerships to contribute towards expenses. This money can pay for any reasonable revenue costs incurred during Phase 1, such as travel and subsistence, venue hire or promotion or consultation materials. This cannot be used for capital costs, such as the purchase of equipment.
- At Phase 2, grants of up to £240,000 will be available for up to 10 partnerships over a three year period, for the implementation of social action plans.
- At Phase 3, grants of up to £255,000 will be available for up to five partnerships to develop and expand their plans over a further three years.

11. What will partnerships be expected to deliver if they are successful?

Place Based Social Action is a three phase programme offering different levels of support and funding at each phase:

- During phase 1, a support and development contractor will work with each partnership to identify, map and bring together a set of local actors¹ from local public services, voluntary organisations, businesses and communities to co-create a shared vision and plan setting out how high impact social action can help respond to local priorities.
- In phase 2, the support and development contractor will continue to support the partnerships to deliver their local action plan.
- In phase 3, we expect to support and fund up to five of these partnerships to develop their plans and increase their social action activity for a further three years.

All partnerships will be required to commit their own time and resources to each stage. In phases two and three, partnerships will be required to leverage in funding from existing or new sources to match the value of at least 33% of the Place Base Social Action funding awarded.

12. How will you evaluate the Place Based Social Action Fund?

Evaluation will play a critical part in the programme to capture and share learnings which can help to inform future place-based social programmes across the UK.

In line with the people-led approach of the Place Based Social Action programme, each partnership will be supported to define its local evaluation criteria and data collection.

By building evaluation skills in each local partnership the aim is for each place to have the capacity to independently improve their plans and the delivery over the course of this programme and beyond.

¹ Local actors is the term used to describe interested parties relevant to a particular place. This could be Local Authority representatives, statutory and non-statutory bodies, CCGs, community members and/or representatives from a local charity. This list is illustrative only.