**FAQs - Welsh Government**

**Coastal Communities Fund**

**Q – Can you share the launch event presentation please?**

A – Yes, a recorded version of the launch event presentation, and the PowerPoint slides are available on [our website](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/coastal-communities-fund#section-2).

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Q – Can you clarify the non-related director eligibility requirement?**

A – Applicants must have a minimum of two unrelated members on their governing body, management committee or board of directors. That means they must have at least two people on their board or committee who aren't married, in a long-term relationship, living together at the same address, or related by blood.

**Q – Do the population size restrictions apply to both Coastal Community Fund programme outcomes?**

A – No, if you are applying to the Town Centre regeneration outcome, the town or settlement must have a population greater than 1,000, but fewer than 100,00 people. However, no such restriction applies to the other coastal community programme outcome.

**Q – Do estuaries count as Coastal?**

A – It depends how far along the estuary and how far inland the project will be located. For the purposes of this fund the definition of a coastal community is: Any settlement within three miles of the Welsh coast (this definition applies to both of the Coastal Communities Fund outcomes).

We may also accept applications from organisations whose services have a clear connection to local coastal economies, such as those whose employees predominantly reside in a coastal settlement, or those that directly support a number of suppliers or partner businesses in a coastal settlement. If you are unsure if your project fits this eligibility requirement or have any questions relating to your project location, please get in touch with us to discuss. Contact details are at the bottom of this document.

**PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

**Q – Can you tell us who else is applying to Coastal Communities Fund in our area, to help us build partnerships or facilitate joint working?**

A – We are unable to share contact details from other applicants due to GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). However, if you have a good understanding of what other related activity is happening in your area, and how your project fits with it, it will benefit your application. Applications from partnership are eligible, see below and the [Coastal Community Fund guidance document](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/media/press-releases/Wales/WGCCF-Guidance-Notes.pdf?mtime=20200615223124&focal=none) for more information.

**Q - Can a group of organisations apply together or in partnership?**

A – Yes, we welcome applications from strong, cross-sector partnerships. A lead organisation should submit the application on behalf of the partnership and be accountable for the project delivery and the funding. A partnership agreement must be in place prior to the full application deadline of noon on Thursday 29 October 2020. If any partners will provide goods or services for the project and will receive payment from Coastal Community Fund, we expect the lead organisation to follow its agreed procurement processes, show value for money and meet any relevant laws.

**PARTNERSHIP FUNDING**

**Q – Are we required to have partnership funding, or can we request 100% of the project costs?**

A – No, you are not required to have partnership funding for this programme. You may request 100% of your total project costs. However, any funding contributing to the project from other sources well help our funding to go further and helps to evidence wider support or demand for your project. Examples of partnership funding include: your own reserves, income generation, funding from other grant-makers, loans, donations, crowd-funding.

**Q – Can we us Lottery or other grant funding as partnership funding for our Coastal Communities Fund application?**

A – Yes, you may use any source of Lottery funding as partnership funding for your Coastal Communities Fund application (such as those distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Sport Wales, and the Arts Council of Wales or any other grant making organisations). Please ensure you will receive a decision from any other funders prior to the full application deadline of noon on 29 October, in order to be eligible. Please also make sure that the other funding programmes you are applying to are happy to accept Coastal Communities Fund grants as match funding to their programme too.

**IDEA FORM**

**Q – Is there a form or format for the ideas phase submission?**

A – There isn’t a specific application form for the Idea stage, but we are asking applicants to submit their Ideas via email **using the specific headings** which are set-out in the guidance document (see pages 9 -11). As well as some standard contact information, we are asking applicants to tell us more about their project idea, how they know it will work and how it will meet the CCF programme aims. This is the part where we will be looking for evidence to support your application, so make sure you read the guidance thoroughly and include specific detail around the evidence your project plan or business plan is based on.

**Q – You mention 'how we know it will work' being essential at the ideas stage.  Can you give some examples of what kind of evidence you might be looking for?**

A – This might include brief details about any of the following evidence: market research, customer consultations or surveys, feasibility studies, evidence of demand for proposed services, the headline basis for financial projections (i.e. expected income generation and expenditure, and how long it will take to become financially self-sufficient, details of local or projected footfall and customer/tourist spend per head, details of who else you are working with in support of the project and how the project links to any relevant local or national strategies or plans if applicable.

**OUTCOMES**

All projects funded through Coastal Communities Fund are expected to deliver one of the following outcomes:

* Coastal communities will experience regeneration and economic growth through projects that directly and/or indirectly create sustainable jobs and safeguard existing jobs

OR

* Town centre areas in coastal communities will experience economic and social regeneration through projects that directly or indirectly create sustainable jobs and safeguard existing jobs, or address other local needs and priorities

**Q – Is it advisable to focus on only one of the two Coastal Communities Fund's targets?**

A – Yes, we recommend that you focus on one outcome - whichever is the one which is the strongest fit for your application. If your project isn’t a strong fit with the Town Centre regeneration in Coastal Communities outcome, which includes an element of social regeneration as well as economic regeneration, we recommend you focus on the other outcome which relates to Coastal Communities more generally. If you are unsure which outcome you should focus on in your application, please get in touch with us to discuss. Contact details are at the bottom of this document.

**Q – Tell us more about the Town Centre Outcome**

A - We are open to supporting a broad range of projects which support economic and social regeneration in Town Centre settings. It is important that you demonstrate that your project will respond to local needs or priorities, and that they are financially sustainable.

Example projects might include, but are not limited to:

* Community groups finding alternative uses for empty town-centre properties
* Re-purposing declining retail areas
* Community Asset Transfers
* Community organisations co-locating under one roof

There is also an opportunity to consider sustainable activities designed to re-build community cohesion around town centres, following the impacts of Covid-19 and lockdown restrictions.

**MULITIPLE APPLICATIONS**

**Q – If I am unsuccessful with my Idea application, can I reapply or submit another application for another project?**

A – No, we are only accepting one ‘Idea’ application per organisation, so take your time and make sure you include everything you need to tell us. Please make sure you read our Guidance document thoroughly.

**Q – Can we submit more than one possible project at Idea stage, if we have more than one relevant project?**

A – No, see the question above. If you have more than one project that is suitable for the Coastal Communities Fund programme we recommend you think about which is the most important to your organisation, customers and community, which is the stronger project, and which is likely to have the biggest impact in terms or economic regeneration, job creation (or community regeneration too, if working towards the Town Centre outcome). You might want to think about whether it makes sense to combine the two or more projects into one. If you are unsure, please get in touch to discuss. Contact details are at the bottom of this document.

**Q – We have two businesses with the same management team. Is it possible to submit two applications (for different projects) run by the same directors/management team under two business entities?**

A – Yes, technically this is possible. But as competition for the Coastal Communities Fund is high, we are unlikely to fund both as they will be in competition with each other. Part of our decision-making process will include a consideration of your capacity to deliver more than one project at the same time.

**BUDGET**

**Q – Can successful awards be used to pay for expenses already incurred for projects started?**

A – No, we are only able to cover the cost of eligible activity and expenses incurred after our decisions have been made. We hope this will be in the first half of March 2021. The only exception to this is we can cover legal costs for any guidance successful applicants have taken around State Aid (up to a maximum of £3,000).

**BUILDINGS, CONSENTS & PERMISSIONS**

**Q – Are Feasibility Studies considered to be eligible costs?**

A – No, it is unlikely we would fund the costs of feasibilities studies as this type of activity needs to be completed in order to establish the need and viability of your project in advance of making an application. We also ask that all capital projects are at RIBA Stage 4 before the full application deadline of noon on 29 October 2020. Capital feasibility studies usually form part of RIBA Stage 1, so therefore would not be eligible.

**Q - Is evidence of full planning permission needed (for capital projects) by the Oct 29th application deadline or could we evidence support etc from the local planning department or from a planning application that has been submitted and is awaiting a decision?**

A – We may be able to be flexible on this deadline, for the evidence of full planning permission, though this is likely to be days or weeks rather than months – for example if a planning panel is making their decisions very close to the full application deadline. Please be clear in your ‘Idea’ stage application, what status any planning permission or consents requests are at and when they are likely to be finalised. Please get in touch with us if you would like to talk it through. Contact details are at the bottom of this document.

**Q - If purchasing land is part of the project, should this be identified by 29th Oct, or just an indication of the type of land needed and current market prices?**

A - By the full application deadline of the 29 October 2020, capital projects must have a valid freehold/heritable or leasehold title to any land/property to be used for the project. Where title is not yet held, evidence is required that a legally binding contract is in place for the purchase/lease, and that the purchase/ lease will be completed within three months if an offer of CCF funding is made. As above, we may be able to be flexible on the deadline of the 29 October 2020, though this is likely to be days or weeks rather than months.

**STATE AID**

**Q – Does Coastal Communities Fund money contribute to our State Aid de minimis allowance?**

A – Yes. Take a look at pages 6 and 7 for of our guidance document for more information and also the [Government webpage](https://gov.wales/state-aid) for State Aid. We are unable to provide specific guidance on State Aid, so we recommend you seek professional Legal advice.

Please note that, with regards to the UK leaving the EU, after the 31 January 2020 there will be a transition period until the end of 2020, while the UK and EU negotiate additional arrangements in relation to state aid. The current rules on state aid continue to apply during the transition period.

**Q – Where can we get specialist state aid advice?**

A – Business Wales can't directly advise applicants on State Aid, but they may be able to direct you to some cost effective specialists who can: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/contact-us>

**THE FUTURE OF CCF**

**Q – Is there likely to be another round of Coastal Communities Fund next year/in the future?**

A – We hope that there will be future rounds of the Welsh Government Coastal Communities Fund and will keep our web page updated with any news or changes in relation to this. If you are interested in being added to a mailing list for news about a future round of Coastal Communities Fund get in touch via the contact details below.

**Top Tips**

* Don’t wait until the ‘Idea’ deadline of 2 October 2020 to submit your application. The sooner you get your application into us, the sooner you will receive your decision, and if successful, the more time you will have to write your full application in time for the deadline of 29 October 2020.
* Get in touch with Business Wales to get help with financial forecasting and business planning support. They may be able to provide you with details of legal professionals who are able to give you guidance on State Aid. <https://businesswales.gov.wales/contact-us>

**Contact us**

**If you can’t find the answer to your question here, or in our Coastal Communities Fund guidance document, please get in touch with the Coastal Communities Fund team** by emailing **ccfwales@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk**

or calling 02921 680214 – this number will connect you with a member of our adviceline team who are working from home. The phone line is open between 09.00 and 17.00, Monday to Friday.