

Wales

Helping End Homelessness -Rural

Guidance

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Deadline for applications

The closing date for Expressions of Interest (EoI) is 31 May 2022. To make an expression of interest you will need to apply in partnership with other organisations. If you are interested in applying, please get in touch with us as soon as possible to discuss your idea – even if your partnership does not have a detailed plan. We can also help join you up with other organisations that are thinking of applying.

If your EoI is accepted, the closing date to send in a full application is 24 November 2022. Please refer to the application process and programme timetable on page 14 and 17 to see how long the application process is likely to take.



This is an interactive document

Navigate through the different sections using the links in the table of contents and the buttons at the bottom of each page.

About The National Lottery Community Fund

We support people and communities to thrive.

The National Lottery Community Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. We believe that the following three approaches are vital to help people and communities in Wales to prosper and thrive. We want all activity we fund to embrace these.



People-led – we're looking for the meaningful involvement of the people you're working with in the development, design and delivery of your activity.



Strengths-based – we encourage you to make the most of, and build on, the skills and experiences of people and strengths within communities.



Connected – we want to know that you have a good understanding of what others are doing locally, that what you're doing complements and adds to this, and that you have working relationships with other relevant groups.

Accessibility

Please contact us to discuss any communication needs you may have. Contact us by email at homelessness@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk, by calling **0300 123 0735** or by text relay on **18001** plus **0300 123 0735**.

Our equality principles

Our equality principles include promoting accessibility, valuing cultural diversity, promoting participation, promoting equality of opportunity, promoting inclusive communities, and reducing disadvantage and exclusion. Visit our website for more information: tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/equalities

This guidance is also available in Welsh.

We care about the environment

The National Lottery Community Fund cares about our environment and we always strive to manage our environmental impact. We encourage and support projects and communities to do the same. Learn more about how you can make your project or event more environmentally sustainable and perhaps save money at the same time by visiting tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-guidance/reducing-your-environmental-footprint.

Background

Homelessness is one of the more pressing social issues that Wales faces. Rough sleeping is on the rise and the sight of tents and makeshift camps are now an all too common sight across Wales. Similarly, the number of people living in temporary accommodation has increased, however the scale of rural homelessness is less visible.

Working closely with the organisations that offer support, and with those who have directly experienced homelessness, we have developed this grant programme in response to the challenge rural homelessness presents. In the first round of the Helping End Homelessness grant programme we awarded £8.5 million to three partnership projects based in urban local authorities in Wales. In this second round, up to £3 million of money raised by National Lottery players is available to help tackle homelessness in rural areas.

What is Homelessness?

We have defined homelessness as ‘not having a home’. A person who is homeless is someone who is:

- sleeping rough
- staying with friends or family
- staying in a hostel, night shelter or Bed & Breakfast
- squatting (because someone has no legal right to stay)
- at risk of violence or abuse in their home
- living in poor conditions that affect their health
- living apart from their family because they don't have a place to live together.

The causes of homelessness are varied and unique to every individual, but they may include:

- parents no longer being willing to provide accommodation
- being subjected to a pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence by a partner, family member or carer in their current home (domestic abuse)
- a relationship breakdown where one of those involved has no alternative accommodation
- poverty
- inequality
- housing supply and affordability
- unemployment.

Helping End Homelessness - Rural will award grants to strategic projects that operate across one or more local authority areas from the eight priority local authorities (listed on page 6). Successful applications will seek to redesign services to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurrent. They will be person-centred and delivered by multi-agency partnerships.

The projects we fund will balance preventative and responsive approaches within a trauma-informed environment, provide tenant support (particularly within the private rented sector), and address the stigma and prejudice faced by homeless people. All projects will be expected to be robustly evaluated so that what they learn informs future homelessness policy.

What do we mean by rural?

The projects we fund with this programme will benefit rural areas and not solely people based in towns. We recognise though that towns in rural areas are often hubs for homeless people from rural areas. For example, we would consider an application based in a central town but working with rural communities.

Who can apply?

We will only accept one Expression of Interest (EOI) in each of the following local authority areas in Wales, including those wanting to work across more than one local authority area. This is because we want local organisations to work together to develop solutions rather than compete against each other for funds. These areas were not successful in the first round of the Helping End Homelessness programme.

- Carmarthenshire
- Ceredigion
- Conwy
- Denbighshire
- Gwynedd
- Isle of Anglesey
- Pembrokeshire
- Powys

Our research shows that organisations need to work together to co-ordinate their approach, close off gaps and ensure they seize opportunities to prevent and tackle homelessness. We will only accept applications from multi-sector, multi-organisation partnerships. While this list is not exhaustive, we anticipate the following types of organisation being involved as partners:

- Established local third sector organisations with experience of delivering homelessness services
- Health services
- Local authorities from the areas specified
- Private rented sector
- Housing associations
- Smaller third sector organisations with relevant expertise
- Probation Service
- Police
- Secure Estate
- Ethnic minority organisations
- LGBT+ organisations
- Social enterprises with relevant expertise
- Mental health services

- Religious organisations/places of worship
- Academic or research institutions

Partnerships and applications should cover one or more local authority area and must be led by a well-placed third sector organisation. **Partnerships must include the local authority/authorities covering the area.**

Aims

We want to fund projects that meet all the following aims. Your application should explain how your partnership will:



Bring together people affected by homelessness with third and public sector organisations, and the private rented sector, to co-design projects that redesign services to prevent and tackle homelessness, making it rare, brief and non-recurrent.



Provide sustained person-centred support that is additional to existing provision. This should recognise that homelessness is often just one of several challenges faced by those experiencing it. It should address and help them overcome the other challenges in their lives.



Develop and deliver activities that focus on homelessness prevention to reduce the number of people who are homeless in the future.



Reduce the discrimination and prejudice directed towards homeless people by encouraging empathy and understanding through a trauma-informed approach within public and third sector services and the wider community.



Develop a robust evidence base on effective approaches towards making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurrent that can inform project delivery as well as other policymakers and service commissioners.

Priorities

Who will benefit from the funding?

We propose that anybody who is homeless, or at risk of homelessness, should be eligible to benefit from the projects supported by this programme. They should receive support for as long as they need it, irrespective of whether they are on the priority need list or not.

We recognise that some people who are homeless and at risk of being so will have one or more characteristics that place them at greater risk. We expect the projects we fund to have considered how they will address any additional support needs they may have. This table, which is not exhaustive, highlights some of the characteristics that may lead to individuals needing additional support.

| | |
|--|---|
| Veterans and ex-armed forces | Care leavers |
| People leaving the Secure Estate | Families |
| People from an ethnic minority | People that identify as LGBT+ |
| People with addictions and those misusing substances | Mental health challenges |
| Refugees | Asylum seekers |
| People leaving hospital | People affected by domestic abuse |
| People affected by sexual violence | People affected by sexual exploitation |
| Young carers | People not identified as being priority need |
| People fleeing forced marriages | Young people |
| Pregnant women | Victims of honour-based crime |
| Older people | People who lose their home through accident or natural disaster |
| Disabled people | People affected by harsh economic circumstances |
| Single people | People with learning disabilities |
| People with chaotic lifestyles | People made homeless on a recurring basis |

Co-design with those who will benefit

We want applicants to work with people who will benefit from their project to identify, plan and deliver activities that matter to them. This goes beyond consultation and empowers individuals by giving them an equal voice in the process. While we will not expect you to have engaged extensively with the people who will benefit from the project at the Expression of Interest stage (see page 17), we will expect you to outline how you propose to work with them and your partners to co-design your project idea if invited to complete a full application.

We only want to fund co-designed projects. Applicants have the freedom to address our priorities for this programme in whatever way they identify as most appropriate through the co-production activities. However our research and consultation has highlighted some common areas that we expect to see addressed in your application and, given the scale of the projects that we expect to fund, we expect there to be multiple areas of focus within your proposals.

These are the priorities that we encourage applicants to consider:

Addressing rural homelessness

Rural homelessness is much less visible than homelessness in urban parts of Wales, especially when it comes to rough sleeping. There is some anecdotal evidence suggesting that people are less likely to present as homeless in rural areas. As the data collected on homelessness is not necessarily accurate, it means that in rural Wales we don't know how widespread homelessness is. We would welcome applications that consider innovative approaches to identifying and addressing homelessness in rural settings.

Service innovation

Existing services focus on reacting to homelessness rather than preventing it. We want to fund projects that emphasise prevention. Our research has highlighted that too many opportunities to spot and prevent homelessness are being missed, such as prison leavers being released from prison to the streets; patients being discharged from hospital when they are known to be homeless; and care leavers leaving local authority care without a permanent home. Services are often too disjointed to prevent this from happening, and we want to use our funding to improve collaboration between organisations supporting people who are homeless.

The Housing (Wales) Act 2015 mandates local authorities to offer support to people who are 56 days away from being homeless to prevent it occurring. We welcome initiatives that look beyond this to take an even more preventative approach.

Person-centred support

Homelessness is often just one of several circumstances which someone is facing, with one often contributing to the other. These circumstances are unique to each person and may include poor physical health; mental health problems; alcohol and drug issues; bereavement; experience of the care system; experience of the criminal justice system; domestic abuse; poverty; inequality; unemployment; or a lack of practical life skills.

We expect the projects that we fund to work with individuals to provide them with the wider support they need to foster their wellbeing and prevent homelessness from reoccurring for as long as they need it.

Supporting tenants and landlords in the private rented sector

Since there is greater need for social housing than the amount on offer, the private rented sector has played a significant role in supporting local authorities to meet the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2015. Our research shows that private landlords are sometimes reluctant to offer tenancies to those at risk of, or already experiencing, homelessness as they are concerned about the potential for rent arrears and the multiple challenges that some prospective tenants may face. We want the projects we fund to offer private rented sector tenants the support that they need, while also supporting landlords to better understand the issues facing their tenants and to signpost tenants to get the support they might need.

Trauma informed environments

The long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences on health, wellbeing and life chances is well documented. Many people who are homeless have been exposed to them. Some of the behaviours and habits they have learned as a result have led to eviction or exclusion from services designed to help them. A punitive approach penalises service users for perceived bad behaviour. Ensuring that frontline services offer a trauma-informed approach instead enables staff to understand why challenging behaviours arise and to work more constructively and creatively in addressing them. In turn this helps build staff resilience, motivation and job satisfaction. We want the projects that we fund to be based around a trauma informed approach.

Reducing discrimination and prejudice

People who are homeless experience prejudice. This can take place in both the wider community and from the services they turn to for help. We want the projects that receive funding to embed appropriate non-discriminatory service delivery within the community in a way that tackles this prejudice and stigma.

Evaluation and learning

We want each project that we fund to commission a project evaluation that they can use to:



incorporate lessons learned throughout the lifetime of the project



inform the work of other service commissioners and policymakers in the field of housing and homelessness



add to the evidence base of 'what works' in making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurrent

Our own research has shown that there is a need for better evidence to help inform the allocation of public funds to tackle homelessness to maximise their impact. We want the projects we fund to add to the evidence about what impacts most on preventing homelessness by evaluating their approach and sharing the learning from it.

Applicants should consider including an appropriate research institution or individual as part of their partnership to ensure that evaluation and learning is embedded in their project idea from the beginning.

Throughout the grant, we will bring together projects, the people who benefit from them and representatives of other relevant organisations to share the learning from projects more widely. We will provide evaluation guidance to support projects that are invited to submit a full application to assist with their evaluation plans.

The application process

There are two phases to the Helping End Homelessness application process.

Phase one – form a partnership and submit an Expression of Interest

If you are interested in applying to Helping End Homelessness, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. Contact us by email at homelessness@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk, by calling **0300 123 0735** or by text relay on **18001** plus **0300 123 0735**.

If you believe your organisation can contribute to a partnership, we will put you in touch with other organisations in your local authority area that are interested in being part of a partnership to develop a plan to tackle homelessness. We need your permission before we can share your contact details with other organisations.

We will then ask partnerships to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). We will ask them to complete a form that outlines details of your proposed partnership, and the local, rural homelessness challenges that you want to address. While we will not expect partnerships to have engaged extensively with beneficiaries at the EOI stage, we will expect them to outline how they propose to work with beneficiaries and partners to co-design the project idea.

Partnerships can also use the EOI form to apply for a development grant of up to £50,000 to assist them in developing a full application if they need one. If your partnership might need a development grant, speak to us about it first.

If your partnership received development funding in the first round of the Helping End Homelessness programme, you will need to provide us with evidence of significant change to be eligible for further development funding.

We will use the information in your EOI form to decide whether we invite you to phase two. When we assess your EOI, we will use any local knowledge we have about your area. This will help us to understand how your partnership could address homelessness and fill gaps within your community.

We aim to inform you of a decision within four weeks of receiving your completed EOI. If your EOI is not successful, we will tell you why.

Phase two – submit a project plan

Partnerships that are successful at EOI stage will be invited to phase two. We will ask you to develop a comprehensive project plan for your proposed project and will give you five months to do this. If you have been awarded a development grant you will need to spend it all within the five months. We will offer feedback from our phase one EOI decision to help you address or clarify areas in your EOI, as well offer tips on completing your project plan.

The application process remains competitive at phase two and we cannot fund every project proposal submitted. We will use the information that you give us in your project plan to decide whether we award you a full grant. We may contact you during the phase two assessment process to clarify issues and ask for further information.

We aim to inform you of our final decision in February 2023. If you are not successful, we will tell you why.

Size and length of grant

Helping End Homelessness – Rural has a budget of £3 million.

Development grants

A development grant of up to £50,000 is available to each successful EOI submitted. This should be spent within five months of being awarded, and prior to the submission of a full application. Development grants are for revenue costs only.

Development grants might be required to resource the intensive work of creating the links between statutory and third sector services, involving service users in project design and developing a project plan.

Full project grants

Project grants will last for between five and seven years. We believe that longer-term funding may promote service redesign and be better suited to the longer-term support needs of people the project is designed to help. We expect these to be mainly revenue grants, but projects can also ask us to agree some capital costs.

The maximum grant size for applications is £1.5 million.

Given the likely scale and scope of the multi-partner projects that we hope to fund, it is unlikely that we will be able to fund all the projects that apply to us for funding through this programme.

Helping End Homelessness timetable

Expression of Interest (EOI)

26 April 2022

Expression of Interest form available online.

Read this guidance and get in touch with us if you're thinking about applying.

We will put you in touch with other organisations near you to start a conversation.

April 2022 – May 2022

Work with your prospective partners to complete the EOI form and request a development grant if you think you need one.

31 May 2020

Submit EOI form to us by 3pm. Send it by email to

homelessness@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk and we will acknowledge receipt within five working days.

July 2022

We will tell you if your EOI has been successful and award development grants where requested.

We will provide feedback to unsuccessful projects.

Making a full application (if invited, based on EOI)

● July 2022 – November 2022

If we invite you to make a full application, work with your partners and service users to co-design your project plan.

● 24 November 2022

Submit your completed project plan to us by 12pm. We will acknowledge receipt within five working days.

● February 2023

We will tell you if your application has been successful.

How to get started

Please make sure you read these guidance notes carefully and then contact us if you are interested. We can put you in touch with other organisations who are interested in being part of a partnership, tell you more about the information we need from you and give you additional advice and support before your partnership submits an EOI.

In line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements, we will need your permission to share your details with other organisations.

To find out what personal data we collect and how we use this data, visit tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/data-protection.

When you contact us, these are the type of questions we'll ask. It will be useful for you to have as much of this information to hand as possible. If you're emailing us for advice about your idea or interest, please provide as much of this information in your email as possible so that we can respond with appropriate feedback.

- What type of organisation are you? Third sector, social enterprise, statutory body etc.
- What does your organisation do, and what role does it have in supporting people who are homeless?
- What could your organisation bring to a homelessness project delivered by partnership?
- What ideas do you have for delivering the project?



Contact us

 homelessness@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

 0300 123 0735 or text relay on 18001 plus 0300 123 0735.