

Fund B – Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility and funding priorities

What are the eligibility criteria for Fund B?

You can find all the eligibility criteria for Fund B on pages 5 and 6 of the [‘Guidance for applying to Youth Music’s Fund B’](#).

What are your current funding priorities?

We have 6 priority areas as listed in our guidance. These are Early Years, Youth Justice Settings, Young People Facing Barriers, Disabled Young People, Young Adults, Organisations and The Workforce. We welcome applications from all these priority areas and from all regions of England.

Currently (January 2021) we would like to increase our investment in the following areas:

Priority Areas: Early Years, Disabled Young People, Youth Justice Settings

Regions: East of England, South East, West Midlands, Yorkshire & the Humber

We particularly welcome applications from these priority areas and regions. But we want to reiterate that we are open to applications from all areas of the country and from across our priority areas and will continue to award funding across all these areas.

It says I need to speak to someone 6 weeks before the expression of interest deadline to apply for a grant of over £150,000. I’ve only just seen the information about this fund, and it’s less than 6 weeks to the deadline.

Unfortunately, we can’t make any exceptions to this.

If I apply for less money, is this going to increase my chance of receiving funding?

Applications are all assessed individually against our criteria. It can be tricky to advise about funding request amounts, as we fund a diverse range of work overall so there is no one-size-fits-all approach.

We only make a small number of Fund B grant awards over £100,000 each year. So you should take this into account when considering how much funding to apply for, as there is more competition for requests of this size.

Youth Music may invite you to apply for a reduced request amount between the Expression of Interest and Application stage. If your application is successful Youth Music may award you less than you requested.

I’ve applied for the Incubator Fund; can I still apply for Fund B?

Yes, if you meet all the Fund B criteria you are still eligible to apply. You should think about how your Incubator Fund application would fit with your Fund B application, and how the two would work together if you were awarded both grants. The Incubator Fund has different criteria to Fund B (for example Sole Traders can apply to the Incubator Fund but are not eligible to apply to Fund B) – so you should consider whether Fund B is a good match for your organisation and programme.

I have an active Fund A/Emergency grant – can I apply?

Yes. Provided you meet all the Fund B criteria you are eligible to apply. Organisations can hold a maximum of two Youth Music grants from Funds A, B and C.

You should consider how a Fund B grant would fit or work alongside your existing grants. You may wish to highlight how specific demand or learning has informed your application.

We're half-way through our current Fund B, can we apply for a new grant now to continue the programme when it ends?

All Fund B programmes (if successful) need to start within 3 months of notification. You cannot have two Fund B grants at the same time, so you should ensure that your current Fund B grant finishes before your new Fund B grant would start - this includes submitting your final evaluation report.

Please contact your Grants and Learning Officer if you're unclear.

The application forms and process

What is the link to start or return to my online application form? Is this a different website to the Youth Music Network?

Our grants portal is where you make applications to Youth Music and submit grant requirements. It is a different site to the Youth Music Network. The link is <http://grants.youthmusic.org.uk>

Do I have to complete my application in one go?

No, you can save your work and then log back in to finish it. We recommend saving your work regularly to avoid data loss.

Can someone read through my Expression of Interest form before I submit?

No, due to the volume of enquiries we receive we are not able to read through individual Expression of Interest forms before submission.

The Grants and Learning team are available to answer technical questions about completing your Expression of Interest form; this could include how to submit your Expression of Interest through the online grants portal, and questions about whether you meet the criteria. They will not be able to discuss the specific detail of your Expression of Interest form.

Am I expected to meet the wordcount limit?

You will be unable to submit your application form if you go over the maximum word counts. You won't be penalised if you don't use the full word count. But do make sure you are using the word count to cover everything we want to see in your Expression of Interest or Application form.

Should my Expression of Interest form be unsuccessful, will I receive detailed feedback?

Youth Music will provide written feedback to all unsuccessful applicants.

This should include a summary of any criteria you didn't meet, and information related to our portfolio balancing process.

My Expression of Interest form has been successful and I have been invited through to submit a full application. What are the rules around making changes to my programme and budget request?

Your full application would need to remain faithful to your Expression of Interest form. In deciding to invite you through to make a full application we have taken into account the type of work being proposed and where it will take place. Though you are welcome to make minor alterations to your plans, we would not anticipate seeing major alterations to proposed delivery activities, geographic delivery areas or target participants. For example, deciding to offer a slightly increased number of 1:1 workshops for your young

people would be fine, deciding to work with teenagers rather than early years children would not. Deciding to add in a series of sharing events at the end of your project would be fine, deciding to relocate the programme from Leicester to Derby would not.

If you do want to make major alterations to your programme, perhaps in response to changes in the external environment, for example – please contact the Grants & Learning team to discuss. We can't guarantee that changes will be approved.

You will be invited through, at application stage to apply for a maximum amount of money, you should not go over this amount.

COVID-19

Do I need to make plans for social distancing?

Youth Music recognises that the COVID-19 outbreak is an exceptional event and that the situation continues to remain uncertain and unpredictable for all organisations, and we recognise that plans need to be flexible and may change, and Youth Music has taken this into account in our assessment and grant management processes.

*However, now more than ever it is important that we invest in programmes and organisations that have practical plans in place to work with children and young people, the workforce and the wider sector. **We are unlikely to fund programmes that rely heavily on face to face delivery but have no contingencies in place should face to face not be possible at any point.***

We are looking to support programmes that take a proactive approach and have contingencies built into their plan, including their budget. All applicants should assume that there will be some form of social distancing measures in place for the next 12 months, including potential future lockdowns

You do not need to make reference to this in your Expression of Interest for, but we would anticipate seeing detail about this in your full application – including in your budget.

Involving children and young people

I am planning an Early Years programme; are you expecting me to co-design the programme with children and young people.

We understand that it will not always be possible to consult directly with babies and young children. But it is still important that you demonstrate that you have taken into account their views, opinions, and likes etc. For Early Years children this could include co-designing the programme with relevant adults e.g. parents/carers, other family members or Early Years practitioners. You probably also have a good understanding of what Early Years children like or need based on their responses to previous work you have done. We are not expecting you to interview early years children or ask them to complete surveys, but it's still important that you demonstrate how you have included and considered these children in the design of your programme.

I am planning a workforce and/or organisational development programme – do Children and Young People have to co-design the programme?

Yes, this is just as important as for any other type of programme. We believe that in order to develop your workforce and your organisation that you need to understand the needs of children and young people, you need to listen to them and give them opportunities to influence and make decisions.

We would be unlikely to fund a workforce or organisational development programme that is unable to demonstrate how children/young people have been involved in its design. They may not help design the

programme itself, but their needs and interests should inform the contents. For example, if they want more music production activities this may lead to a programme to upskill staff in this area of work.

I am planning a workforce development or organisational development programme; do I still need to include delivery with children or young people?

Yes. Youth Music believes that a quality training programme should involve delivery with children/young people to enable your workforce to put their skills into practice and to learn 'on the job'. We would be very unlikely to fund a workforce development programme that did not involve significant opportunity for the workforce to learn from working directly with young people. Similarly, we would be unlikely to fund an organisational development programme that did not offer youth voice and participation activities for children and young people.

Changes to the Fund B criteria and process (for people who have applied before)

Is there a maximum amount of indirect costs I can apply for? You used to say 20%.....?

We no longer have a limit on the proportion of indirect costs you can apply for, this is in line with our full cost recovery policy. Youth Music offers full cost recovery to ensure that grants awarded cover the true costs of running a programme. This means you can apply for a grant to cover the direct programme costs plus a relevant share of your organisation's overheads (indirect costs). [This toolkit from NPC is helpful for understanding the true costs of a programme.](#)

However we would emphasise that Fund B is set up to primarily fund programme delivery, so we still anticipate that the majority of your budget would be spent on direct costs.

The Expression of Interest form is much shorter than the 'old' Stage 1 form – am I expected to cover all the criteria you list in your guidance document?

We decided to make the Expression of Interest form much shorter than the 'old' Fund B Stage 1 form, because we wanted to reduce the amount of time applicants spent writing applications.

On pages 5 and 6 of the guidance, we list the organisational and programme criteria for Fund B. We tell you which of these criteria we will assess at the Expression of Interest stage and which we will assess at the Full Application stage. This means you do not need to include all the Fund B criteria in your Expression of Interest form.

We understand that if you have applied to Youth Music before you may be tempted to include all the additional information we used to ask for at this first stage – such as outcomes, your evaluation plan, a more detailed budget etc. -But as we won't be assessing these things at the Expression of Interest stage it won't advantage you to do this.

Previously Fund B guidance said I had to embed the Youth Music Quality Framework – do I still have to do this?

We no longer require Fund B applicants to embed the Youth Music Quality Framework into their programme. We require that organisations have mechanisms for reflecting on and improving the quality of their music-making activities. Organisations are encouraged to make use of the Youth Music Quality Framework to do this but they can also make use of existing frameworks that they may have in place. We recommend that all organisations read the Youth Music Quality Framework, as it will help you to understand our approach to quality and reflection.

Why have you extended the maximum grant length to 48 months?

Previously Fund B grants could last a maximum of 36 months, we have extended this to 48 months to provide further flexibility for applicants when designing their programme. This is also in response to requests from current grantholders wishing to extend their grant beyond the previous 36 month limit.