

Fund A – Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility and funding priorities

What are the eligibility criteria for Fund A?

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

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.

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.

For Fund A we strongly recommend that you apply for the amount of money that you need to deliver your project successfully, as we will be assessing whether your budget has accounted for all project costs.

I've applied for the Incubator Fund; can I still apply for Fund A?

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

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

Yes. Provided you meet all the Fund A 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 A 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 A, can we apply for a new grant now to continue the project when it ends?

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

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

Schools

I am a school – am I eligible to apply to Fund A?

Yes schools are eligible to apply to Fund A. Schools must meet all the eligibility criteria, as outlined on pages 5 and 6 of the [‘Guidance for applying to Youth Music’s Fund A’](#).

Additionally, for schools-based projects for pupils at Key Stage 1 or above, we will not fund:

- Whole class tuition on the same instrument or group of instruments (e.g. strings)
- Individual tuition fees for young people to learn an instrument
- Work in secondary schools where there is no employed music teacher.
- Music curriculum activities that could be supported through Department for Education funding
- GCSE Music or A-Level Music

Projects working in special schools, PRUs (or other alternative provisions) or with Early Years children are eligible to apply.

What are the most common reasons that school-based projects are rejected?

- Not meeting the additional criteria for schools-based projects (as outlined above). For example, the following would all be ineligible:
 - a project to provide all Year 4 classes with violin lessons
 - a project to develop a GCSE music offer in a secondary school
 - a project to cover the cost of buying in instrumental tuition from the local music education hub.
- It’s not clear that the project will be working with children and young people facing barriers, and/or the project has an untargeted recruitment strategy.
- The project has not been co-designed with children and young people, and/or they do not have opportunities to influence project design on an ongoing basis.
- Project budget is primarily for capital costs (e.g., instruments, other music equipment, building a music room etc.). A maximum of 15% of your total request to Youth Music can be for capital costs. For example, if you were request £10,000 from Youth Music, a maximum of £1.5k could be for buying instruments.

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 you work and then log back in to finish it. We recommend saving your work regularly to avoid data loss.

Can someone read through my application form before I submit?

No, due to the volume of enquiries we receive we are not able to read through your entire application form before you submit.

The Grants and Learning team are available to answer questions about completing your application; this could include how to submit your application form through the online grants portal, advice about answering questions and questions about whether your organisation or project meet the criteria.

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 Application form.

Should my application 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.

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 projects 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 projects 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 projects 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

There are specific questions about this in the application form but would also anticipate seeing relevant plans and costs built into your activity plan and budget.

Involving children and young people

I am planning an Early Years project; are you expecting me to co-design the project 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 project 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 project.

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

Yes, this is just as important as for any other type of project. 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 project that is unable to demonstrate how children/young people have been involved in its design. They may not help design the project itself, but their needs and interests should inform the contents. For example, if they want more music production activities this may lead to a project to upskill staff in this area of work.

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

Yes. Youth Music believes that a quality training project 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 project 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 project that did not offer youth voice and participation activities for children and young people.

Changes to the Fund A 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 project. This means you can apply for a grant to cover the direct project 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 project.](#)

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