



# Year 5 Guidance - Q&A

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# Year 5 Fund Outcomes

Continued focus on prevention and early intervention and aims to support grass roots community groups in tackling mental health inequalities and addressing priority issues of:

- social isolation and loneliness;
- suicide prevention; and
- tackling poverty and inequality.

# Fund Ambition

- Support initiatives which promote mental health and wellbeing at small, grassroots and community level.
- Most of the funding will go to smaller scale community projects (Small Grants up to £10k).
  - National and large local organisations with an income >£1M funded by exception.

# Scottish Government Fairer Funding pilot

- Fund part of Scottish Govt Fairer Funding pilot
  - Provide more financial certainty for the third sector orgs.
- Flexibility to award a mix of 1 (Year 5) and 2 year (Years 5 & 6) grants to projects.
- Around 80% of funding will be reserved for 2-year projects
  - Projects seeking Year 5 only will be ineligible to reapply in Year 6 for same initiative

# Fund Value

- **£465k fund**
  - £93k will be available for Year 5 only projects
  - £372k will be available for Year 5 and 6 projects.
- Small grants (£1k-£10k)
- Large grants (£10k - £35k)
  - Collaboration / partnership bids - may be supported up to £40k
- Fund levels adjusted based on feedback about lower and upper limits

# Fund Timeline

- **Fund live** - 9am Mon 1 Sept to Noon to Mon 6 Oct
- Independent panel meeting during November
- Decisions advised Dec 2025
- All monies allocated by Feb 2026
- **Activity timeline**
  - 1 Apr 2026 – Mar 2027 (1 year projects)
  - 1 Apr 2026-Mar 2028 (2 year projects)

# Scope of Fund

## In scope (not exhaustive)

- Community supports that complement clinical care
- Equipment
- One-off events
- Venue hire
- Staff costs (one off / fixed term)
- Capital expenditure (£5k max)
- Training / transport / utilities
- Volunteer expenses

## Out of scope

- Contingency costs, loans, endowments
- Electricity generation
- Fundraising activities
- Statutory activities
- Political campaigning

# Target groups (wide ranging)

- Women, particularly women experiencing gender based violence;
- people with a long term health condition or disability;
- people from a Minority Ethnic background;
- refugees;
- people facing socio-economic disadvantage;
- people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage;
- people with diagnosed mental illness;
- people affected by psychological trauma people who have experienced bereavement or loss;
- people disadvantaged by geographical location;
- older people (aged 50 and above);
- people with neurological conditions or learning disabilities
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities;
- Young people aged 16-24
- Other



# Groups eligible to apply

- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO)
- Unincorporated Associations
- Companies Limited by Guarantee
- Trusts
- Not-for-profit company or asset locked company or Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies
- Community councils
- Parent councils

# Fair Work First Requirements

- A key condition – is that the Real Living Wage policy applies to employers commissioned by grant recipients to deliver an aspect of the grant funded activity.
- This means that staff working in the should be paid at least the Real Living Wage - currently £12 per hour – *revised figure due end of Oct 2025*

# Application form

- More detailed than in previous years
  - Additional questions to meet Scottish Govt reporting requirements
- ***`save for later`*** facility
- Application form split into 4 sections
  - Org details
  - Project details / outcomes
  - Financials
  - Declarations and commitments

# Application form hints and tips

## [Online Application Form Link](#)

- Read the guidance!
- Describe accurately – be honest
- Use bullet points where possible
- Detail activity costs as much as possible

# Reporting arrangements

- Light touch approach – but additional reporting requirements as required by Scottish Government.
  - End of project report – April 2027 (1 year projects)
  - Interim report – April 2027 (2 year projects)
  - End of project report – April 2028 (2 year projects)

# Year 6 arrangements

- For projects awarded two-year funding, grant offer letter will include:
- *"The value of the grant payable in year two is an indicative confirmation and cannot be taken as a guarantee: all indicative funding commitments are subject to the outcome of any spending review by the Scottish Government and approval of the annual Budget Bills by the Scottish Parliament during this period."*
- Details of fund value for Year 6 will be shared widely once known.

# Questions / Comments