

## Cambridgeshire Communities Innovation Fund.

These questions and answers are to offer potential applicants guidance on the Cambridgeshire Communities Innovation Fund.

Please ring CCF on 01223 410535 if you have other questions or want to clarify any points

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>Eligibility of applicant</b>	
1. Can individuals apply?	No
2. Can businesses apply?	For profit businesses cannot apply – not for profit ( CIC or social enterprises) can apply
3. Can Councils apply?	Yes, any public sector organisation can apply
4. Can an organisation put in more than one application in the same time	Only one Project Proposal should be submitted at a time. When the outcome of this project proposal is known, a further project proposal can be submitted.  Organisations are unlikely to be awarded a further grant if they already have 2 grants which are yet to the final monitoring submitted.
5. We are a new organisation– can we still submit a project proposal	Yes – but large grants are unlikely to be offered to new organisations with no track record of delivery
6. Can we make a joint application with another organisation(s)?	Yes – but you would need to identify who the lead partner was. Only one grant recipient can be identified.
<b>Eligibility of project</b>	
7. Can projects apply if the proposal benefits residents outside Cambridgeshire as well as within the County?	Grant awards cannot be used to offer <b>direct</b> support to non-county residents .The beneficiaries need to be identified at the PPF stage and if the overall project is of interest, conditions may be stipulated at the time of any grant offer.
8. Can an Innovation Fund grant be used as a match for another	Provided the outcomes for Cambridgeshire County Council are clearly defined and costed this may acceptable. You would need to flag this up in the Project Proposal Form and it would be discussed with you if you are invited to full

funding bid we are developing?	application stage.
9. Would a grant from the Innovation Fund count as State Aid?	<p>As the Innovation Fund is awarded from Cambridgeshire County Council , a grant could count as State Aid.</p> <p>An approved EU mechanism for State aid is the de minimis regulation, based on the Commission’s view that small amounts of aid are unlikely to distort competition. The De Minimis Regulation allows small amounts of aid – less than €200,000 over 3 rolling years – to be given to an undertaking for a wide range of purposes. If you use this mechanism, you do not need to notify or get approval, but records of aid granted must be kept</p> <p>As part of the Innovation Fund application process applicants need to quantify how much, if any, State Aid they have already received and whether any exemptions can be applied. If an organisation has already reached or exceeded de minimis or if an Innovation Fund grant would result in de minimis being exceeded, the matter needs to be discussed. .</p> <p>A general introduction to State Aid rules can be found at this link.  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443686/BIS-15-417-state-aid-the-basics-guide.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443686/BIS-15-417-state-aid-the-basics-guide.pdf</a></p>
10. Are business loans funded through the scheme as well as grants?	No.
11. Can capital as well as revenue expenditure be funded?	Yes
12. Will a proposal be considered if it involves asking for funding beyond 1 year	Yes, projects can apply for up to two years of funding subject to clear plans about the sustainability of the project thereafter.
13. Are any costs ineligible?	<p>Costs to cover the following will not be allowed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• debts and debt service charges (interest);</li> <li>• provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;</li> <li>• purchases of land or buildings;</li> <li>• currency exchange losses;</li> <li>• Projects promoting political activities</li> <li>• Faith groups promoting religious, non-community based activities</li> <li>• Projects lobbying for a particular cause or action</li> <li>• Deficit or retrospective funding (i.e. grants for activities which have already taken place)</li> </ul>

<b><u>Process</u></b>	
14. When will grants be paid to successful applicants?	You will be asked to sign to accept the terms and conditions of the grant. Once the grant offer has been accepted, payment of the grant will normally be made within 10-14 days. For larger grants, payments will be in quarterly tranches and will be dependent upon progress of the project ( see 15)
15. How will funding be awarded – in advance/arrears etc?	It will normally be advance for at least part of the sum. Where the project is sufficiently large or where timescale exceeds one year we will propose a timetable of payments by instalments, subject to satisfactory progress being made and providing evidence of the costs incurred to date.
16. What obligations will successful bidders be required to sign up to?	These will be explained as part of the grant offer letter
17. What are the consequences if the project costs turn out to be higher or lower than the sum bid for?	No further grant will be paid to cover unanticipated costs. Underspends of over £100 must be declared and repaid.