

Guidance for applicants

Purpose and aims of the Youth Investment Fund

Phase 2 of the Youth Investment Fund aims to provide up to 300 new and redeveloped youth facilities in eligible levelling up areas across England.

This pilot funding is to:

- Build one of up to four youth facilities on sites across England
- Pilot activities for the planning, site preparation and construction of a facility, awarded to a site ready for receipt
- Enable DCMS to test the YIF approach, our facility requirements and construction methods. Construction methods to be tested will include modular off site approaches to construction as part of an intention to move towards modern methods of construction (MMC).

The expected outcomes of this pilot are:

- Four or more youth facilities constructed during 2022/2023
- Feedback and learning from the build process that can inform the design, procurement and construction of future YIF-funded facilities.

Successful organisations will need to build facilities that meet the key specifications set out by DCMS in order to test our process. However, there will be some degree of flexibility over the final design of the buildings. DCMS has developed concept designs that give an indication of how the pilots might look and how they intend to operate. **For an illustrative idea of what these facilities could look like, please see the drawings attached on the [gov.uk page](#).**

To ensure that expected outcomes of the pilot are met, a range of factors will be considered in awarding grants. This may include geographic spread, size of site/facility, and type of organisation.

Successful pilot applicants will **not** be eligible for further capital funding from YIF Phase 2 for the same site (though they may be eligible for resource funding). If you are unsuccessful, you will still be able to apply for Phase 2 funding, assuming that you meet all the essential criteria. Note that Phase 2 will be administered by an Intermediary Grant Maker and may therefore have different assessment criteria or follow a different process to this pilot.

Why Modern Methods of Construction?

Modern Methods of Construction could provide a step change for the youth services sector, by providing youth organisations with innovative spaces faster than through a traditional build route. MMC building aims to achieve savings for organisations delivering youth services/activities and taxpayers, so that more resources and energy can be focused on activities that enrich the lives of young people.

Key benefits of MMC are:

- Facilities' potentially reduced environmental impact and potential contribution to net zero.
- The potential to create cost efficiencies, including savings in the design process, procurement and running costs.

- The potential for pilot facilities to be ready-to-use facilities, with the majority of project management, planning and installation undertaken by construction experts.

What will I get?

- A youth facility of between 100m² - 350m²
- Support throughout the planning and construction stages
- Costs associated with the construction of a youth facility, including groundworks, landscaping and other associated costs as part of the pilot scope
- Potential resource funding to assist with the set up and initial operation of the centre

Indicative Timings

- 27 May 2022: fund opens for applications
- 3 July 2022: fund closes for applications (extended from the original deadline of 19 June)
- July 2022: applicants notified of outcome
- July 2022: appointment for YIF consultant and experts made
- August 2022 - December 2022: designs developed and costed
- October - December 2022: procure constructors for building work
- January - March 2023: construction work begins*

*Subject to obtaining Planning Approval and a successful working through of YIF pilot design and procurement stages

Can I Apply?

Essential Criteria

- Any non-profit organisation - whether a sole applicant or joint application¹ - with a track record of excellence in delivering youth work.
- Sufficient capacity and capability within the 2022/23 financial year to participate in the pilot, including appropriate financial management and governance. Applicants must be ready to deliver at pace.
- Own, or have the ability to develop, an appropriate site in an [eligible area](#). We welcome sites with or without planning permission. Where there is specific planning permission attached to the site already, applications must confirm:
 - Appropriate 'use class' and the planning approval case number
 - Size, shape and type of building existing planning permission is for (Drawings at scale of the permitted scheme)
 - Any conditions attached to existing permission

¹ If a joint application is made, organisations must:

- Identify a lead party, responsible for all communication with DCMS
- Identify the site freeholder. Where this is not the lead party, the freeholder must provide written confirmation that the lead party can act on their behalf
- Provide a structure diagram outlining roles, responsibilities and experience across all parties
- Provide written confirmation from all parties that they authorise the lead party to act on their behalf

- Ability to demonstrate the location has a clear need for a youth facility
- A plan for financial sustainability as part of the application process, clearly showing what youth services will run in the facility and how that will be funded over the next 5 years

Desirable Criteria

- Ability to provide match funding
- Experience in managing grant funds and running capital/building projects

Applicants must be willing to:

- Participate in the pilot and allow government to use the build for marketing purposes during the duration of YIF Phase 2, including but not limited to promotional materials, case studies and site visits.
- Work with the YIF consultants to influence the future design of other YIF-funded facilities
- Work with government and the YIF Phase 2 Intermediary Grant Maker on lessons learnt, evaluation, and post event assurance
- Enter into appropriate agreements to secure the facility for youth provision, details of which to be confirmed in due course.
- Provide all costs around overheads, furnishing, running youth services, etc. subject to available resource grants within the YIF fund for the period until 31 March 2025. Fittings such as kitchens and bathrooms will be supplied.

Eligible and Ineligible Spend

We will fund:

- Costs associated with the construction of a single youth facility

We will not fund:

- Academic research or desk based projects
- Administrative costs
- Advocacy
- Appeals
- Campaigning and awareness raising
- Core costs - other than for those that can be evidenced as directly related to the project outlined in the application
- Debts or loans
- Fees for professional fundraisers
- Individuals
- Onward grants.
- Party political organisations
- Projects outside of England
- Promotion of religious beliefs
- Retrospective funding
- Schools, colleges or hospitals (unless as part of a partnership application)