

Communities Against Guns, Gangs, and Knives Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

What funding is available?

Up to £10k per year will be available to each successful organisation for 2 years.

Who is eligible to bid for the funding?

Applications are invited from voluntary and community sector organisations working with young people aged 10-19 years to prevent gang, gun and knife crime and/or to help young people get out of violent offending.

How will the new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives VCS fund work?

The programme will support voluntary and community sector organisations working with young people to prevent gang, gun and knife crime and offering support to parents to challenge their children's involvement in gang and/or knife crime.

It will fund intensive work with young people at risk of becoming violent offenders, or those already involved in gang activity and/or knife crime, over two years. The aims will be to:

- reduce knife crime among young people
- reduce gun crime and gang-related violence among young people
- prevent at risk young people from becoming involved in gun, knife and gang related crime
- break the cycle of violent re-offending among young people

We will fund projects which are engaging young people involved (or at risk of being involved) in gang/knife crime in the following areas:

- Mentoring, outreach or education work with young people involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in gun/knife crime or gang activity. For example those at risk may include: siblings of gang members, ex-offenders and associates of gang members who have been identified via youth offending teams, risk management arrangements (e.g. MAPPAs or other multi-agency case management meetings), voluntary sector or statutory agencies.
- Support schemes for siblings, families and parents of young people involved in or at risk of involvement in gang or knife violence.
- Girls and young women.

What is the maximum amount of funding we can bid for?

The new Home Office Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund will provide up to £10k per year to each successful organisation for two years.

We are a national project – will we be able to bid for £10k per region we work in or is there a maximum of £10k per project?

National projects can bid for more than one project, however, bids must relate to clearly identifiable local projects covering specific local areas, not national infrastructure or service costs, and funding of more than £10k is not guaranteed. No single local project will be given more than £10k per year.

What about the other £10m of funding for prevention and diversionary activities, can our organisation bid for this?

The funding announced for prevention and diversionary activities is to maintain the Home Office's Positive Futures programme. The funding comprises of £5 million in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

What is Positive Futures?

Positive Futures is a prevention programme that targets 10-19 year olds on the cusp of or who have desisted from offending. The programme uses sports and arts-based activities to engage them and build positive relationships whereby they can be supported to develop the skills needed to get on to a positive career path and take on roles to become active and responsible citizens, such as through volunteering and employment.

The programme is also built around the idea of progression and supporting young people to access education, training and employment opportunities.

The programme is currently managed on behalf of the Home Office by the young people's charity Catch22.

How do organisations get to be part of the Positive Futures programme?

The Home Office funding will maintain the existing programme of 91 local projects.

If any organisation or individual is interested in getting involved with their local project then further information can be obtained from the Positive Futures team at Catch22 on 020 7336 4843 or by email positive.futures@catch-22.org.uk

My organisation is focused on prevention, are we eligible to bid for any funding?

The criteria for the new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund will be available on the Home Office's website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>

My organisation provides educational materials for schools, can we apply for this funding?

Proposals for funding relating to educational materials in schools are currently being developed. However, any individual organisation working with 10-19 year olds to tackle gun, gang and knife crime who are interested in seeking funding is encouraged to bid for the new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund. The criteria for the fund will be available on the Home Office's website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>

The Community Fund

Why is Community Fund ending?

The new Home Office Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund replaces the Home Office Community Fund and has new criteria - we will accept bids from all parts of England and Wales – not just the limited areas covered by the Community Fund – and will have a particular focus on teenagers. £4 million is being made available over 2 years in grants of £10k to individual organisations working with 10-19 year olds to tackle gun, gang and knife crime. The criteria and application form for the new fund will be available on the Home Office's website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>

What happens to organisations who previously received funding under the Community Fund?

The new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund replaces the previous Home Office Community Fund. Existing Home Office Community Fund recipients will receive no further grant payments from March 2011 but are encouraged to apply for new funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 from the new fund.

Wasn't the Community Fund guaranteed for 3 years?

The new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund replaces the Home Office Community Fund. Existing Home Office Community Fund recipients will receive no further grant payments from March 2011, but will be encouraged to apply for grants from the Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund. If successful, this will provide them with a further two years

of funding rather than the one year that the previous funding would have provided.

Application process

When will the application forms be available?

The criteria for the new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund and the application form will be available on the Home Office's website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>

When is the application deadline?

The deadline for applications to received funding from the new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund will be available on the Home Office's website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>

How long will we have to complete our application?

The deadline for applications to receive funding from the new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund will be available on the Home Office's website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>

Will you accept hard copies?

Electronic applications are preferred, however, we will accept hard copies if this is the only format in which you are able to submit your application.

Existing Community Fund recipients

I am an existing Community Fund recipient, am I required to re-apply?

Yes, you will need to reapply. The new Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund replaces the Home Office Community Fund. Existing Home Office Community Fund recipients will receive no further grant payments from March 2011. As an existing Community Fund recipient, you are welcome to apply for the new fund, though you will need to submit a new application and demonstrate that you can deliver against the eligibility criteria. Details of the fund's criteria and application process will be available on the Home Office's website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>

The Home Office would like to thank you, as an existing Home Office Community Fund recipient, for all of your hard work with young people at risk of, or involved in, gun, gang and knife related violence. We know that young people and their communities benefit from your expertise, dedication and hard work.

I am an existing Community Fund recipient, will I still receive funding for 2011/12?

The new Home Office Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund replaces the Home Office Community Fund. Existing Home Office Community Fund recipients will receive no further grant payments from March 2011 but are welcome to apply for the new fund.

Why is the Community Fund for 2011/12 no longer available?

The new Home Office Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund replaces the Home Office Community Fund and has a new criteria, which is aligned to the coalition government's approach which was informed by Brooke Kinsella's review, Tackling Knife Crime Together. It is making £2million available over 2 years in grants of £10k to individual organisations working with 10-19 year olds to tackle gun, gang and knife crime in all communities across England and Wales.

Other

How do I apply for funding under the Tackling Knives Action Programme?

The Home Office Tackling Knives Action Programme ends on 31 March 2011. It will be replaced by the Communities Against Gangs, Guns and Knives Programme which will work with three hotspot areas to tackle gun, gang and knife crime committed by 10-19 year olds. The hotspot areas are London, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. You might wish to contact the Mayor's office in London and the police in Manchester and the West Midlands if you would like to discuss what opportunities might be available for your organisation through this funding.

Details of the application process for the voluntary and community sector funding which complements this programme, the new Home Office Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund will be available on the Home Office's website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>