

National Youth Social Action Fund - Specification

Background

Government, through the Cabinet Office, have pledged to support the #iwill campaign, run by Step Up To Serve. The campaign aims to increase, by 50%, participation in youth social action (volunteering, fundraising and campaigning) by 10-20 year olds by 2020.

The campaign is independent, cross-party, cross-sector and collaborative. It was launched in November 2013 by HRH The Prince of Wales and is calling on business, education, voluntary and public sector organisations to help improve the quality and increase the number of opportunities for youth social action.

Over the last Parliament, Government invested over £21 million into growing youth social action as well as its continuing support of National Citizen Service. From these programmes, we have a growing evidence base to show that young people taking part in social action gain skills that are proven to be important for life and work, and that participating in social action has a positive impact on young people's well-being. For example, those participating in one programme showed, on average, a level of empathy [11% greater than those who did not experience the intervention.](#)

To support this development Cabinet Office want to invest £1 million this financial year to support the development of youth social action opportunities based on results from the [Youth Social Action Survey](#) which we carried out in summer 2014. The survey of over 2,000 10-20 years old showed that 40% of young people in the UK take part in meaningful social action but there was variation across geographical areas and backgrounds.

This investment has been matched by Pears Foundation and UK Community Foundations, specifically the Norfolk and Suffolk Community Foundations. The total fund will be split into two separate funds, one national and one local. Organisations are restricted to applying for only one of the two funds. Details for the local fund will be made available separately.

National Fund

In partnership with Pears Foundation, this fund will invest a total of £1.26 million (with equal contributions from Cabinet Office and Pears Foundation) to grow youth social action opportunities for young people across England.

The Youth Social Action Survey showed that young people from the least affluent families, socio-economic group C2DE, had a participation rate of just 34% compared to those from the higher socio-economic group, ABC1, at 45%. This rises to 51% when looking at just the AB group (upper middle class and middle class). It also showed that 36% of young people living in rural areas took part in social action, whereas their contemporaries living in urban areas had a participation rate of 42%. Applicants to this fund would need to demonstrate how their programmes would help provide opportunities for young people from the C2DE socio-economic group and/or living in rural areas.

The Cabinet Office and Pears Foundation are particularly interested in receiving applications from organisations to improve the reach and impact of existing programmes that are

sustainable and scaleable in the long term e.g working with volunteers, through partnerships or utilising existing structures and institutions. We would also be interested in bids which wish to pilot, within existing programmes, innovative approaches to addressing issues of need, access or inclusivity, or which embrace cross-sector partnerships eg with the health, education or social care sectors.

It is the intention that the majority of this funding will run for two financial years with all money to be spent by July 2017. At this stage we welcome [expressions of interest](#) and will then work with individual organisations to draw up firm proposals and make decisions on funding timelines.

Eligibility

Organisations must demonstrate that their programme can meet the following quality principles of great youth social action:

- Reflective
- Challenging
- Youth-led
- Socially Impactful
- Progressive
- Embedded

More details about the principles can be found [here](#)

Definition of young person: any person under the age of 25 (or 25 for young people with disabilities) from when the programme begins.

The fund is open to applications from Charities/CIOs, Community Interest Companies and Social Enterprises. If you would like to apply and your organisation is not listed, please contact us.

Evaluation

To support the wider work on understanding the impact of social action the Cabinet Office team have created a questionnaire on youth social action which we have used on previous programmes and refined to be as useful and simple as possible.

If successful, organisations would be expected to ensure that participants fill in the survey pre and post the programme to measure impact on a range of key skills. The survey can be viewed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZS2YFJN>

Process

Application forms can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-youth-social-action-fund-expressions-of-interest> and should be submitted to youthpolicybriefingandcorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Applications will close at 5pm on Friday 28th August.

Contacts

Any questions should be sent to

youthpolicybriefingandcorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk