

Help for Single Homeless: frequently asked questions

Application process

Q) We want to work in our Gold Standard grouping or original single homelessness grouping. Is this acceptable?

A) Yes we have deliberately left it open for local authorities to choose their own grouping, but encourage bidders to form groupings of three or more authorities. However, there may be logistical and infrastructure advantages to working alongside local authorities that you have previously worked with.

Q) We do not want to have a lead authority. Is this acceptable?

A) A lead authority and a lead contact must be selected to keep the process as streamlined as possible. Groupings are free to determine their own governance structures as they wish.

Q) I'm not sure which other Local Authorities to work with?

A) Your local Homeless Link manager can assist you to broker relationships and form a grouping with other authorities. Please note, however that it is ultimately up to local authorities themselves to agree a grouping and the details of their bid.

Q) Can we bid with more than one grouping?

A) No. Local authorities may only be part of one grouping. This is to avoid duplication of funding.

Q) Why do we have to apply as a grouping?

A) One of the aims of the funding is to improve coordination across local authority and service boundaries. Learning from the £20 million 2011 single homelessness funding suggested that there were significant benefits to working across authority boundaries.

Q) The prospectus states that we have to bid in groups of three or more authorities. We do not think that this will work for us. Is there any flexibility on this?

A) In exceptional circumstances we will consider applications from smaller groupings or single authorities with strong local partnerships. If you are considering this please contact your local Homeless Link manager who will advise you further.

Q) What is the role of Homeless Link in this scheme?

A) Homeless Link will:

- Broker partnerships for bidding for this funding
- Act as 'critical friend' by assisting in bid development, ensuring that they are ambitious, focused on change and have clear sustainability objectives
- Provide ongoing delivery advice and assistance
- Collate and share learning from the scheme to other authorities and partners. This this will include a brief survey at the end of year one to determine progress so that we can release funding for the second year. There will be a further survey at the end of the project to capture lessons learnt.

Q) How will bids be assessed?

A) Bids will be assessed and moderated against the criteria detailed in the prospectus. They will be scored according to the marking system explained in the prospectus.

In order to inform the decision making process, the Gold Standard Advisory Committee (an independent body of leading homelessness voluntary sector organisations chaired by the local authority led National Practitioner Support Service) will provide an expert view on the content and deliverability of shortlisted bids. Ministers will make the final decisions on successful bids.

Q) What if I'm unhappy with the decision?

A) Please contact Val Hibbert (val.hibbert@communities.gsi.gov.uk) in the first instance. The team can provide feedback on unsuccessful applications if requested.

Q) Can we include annexes?

A) We want to keep the process as streamlined as possible; therefore we have asked only for a single spread sheet annex to supplement question ten of the application form (demonstrating evidence of need). Other than this, we will not assess or score any additional information included in annexes.

Q) Is this scheme England only?

A) Yes.

Q) We are struggling to answer some of the questions in the application form. Who can help us?

A) In first instance you should contact your local Homeless Link manager, who should be able to advise you. Contact details for Homeless Link managers can be found in the prospectus.

Q) We are finding it difficult to obtain a local contribution. Will we be disadvantaged?

A) We have included local contributions in the design of the scheme to encourage sustainability beyond the funding period. However we understand that it may be difficult to source local contributions. For this reason we have not made local contributions mandatory. Bids will be assessed across the whole set of criteria. Therefore, bids without a local contribution will have the opportunity to make up any marks lost by scoring higher in other criteria.

Q) How is this funding linked to the Greater London Authority's No First Night Out pilot project?

A) The Mayor of London is making up to £80,000 available in London for a pilot project focusing on preventing rough sleeping over the same time frame (2014/15 – 2015/16). Further information on the Greater London Authority's funding, including details of the application process can be found at <http://www.london.gov.uk/rough-sleeping>. London Boroughs may consider seeking funding from the Greater London Authority's as part of their local contribution for their Help for Single Homeless bid. Please indicate on the application form if you wish to do this in the space provided. Bids ticking this box will be shared with the Greater London Authority. The Greater London Authority will also be involved in the assessment of these bids in an advisory capacity.

Q) The application form states that funding will be split on a 3 to 5 ratio. What does this mean?

A) We have up to £3 million available in 2014/15 and up to £5 million in 2015/16. Groups of local authorities can apply for a minimum of £100,000 and a maximum of £250,000 over the two years. When completing the budget line table in the application form ensure that $\frac{3}{8}$ of funding is applied for in the first year and $\frac{5}{8}$ of the funding is applied for in the second year. For example, a £100,000 bid should request £37,500 in the first year and £62,500 in the second year.

Scheme content

Q) What is the Department trying to achieve with this round of funding?

A) The aim is to improve the quality and consistency of services for single homeless people and break the route into rough sleeping in funded areas. The Government's intention is that this funding gives authorities the resources to work with other local partners to improve service coordination for this client group and

the space to innovate to design and deliver sustainable services to prevent single homelessness rather than react to its consequences.

Q) What sort of activity will you be looking to fund?

A) We do not want to be prescriptive about the kind of activity a grouping would want to deliver. However, we would expect that local authorities to work with partners such as health, probation and Job Centre Plus to improve the offer for single homeless.

Q) Is this funding revenue or capital?

A) This funding is revenue. Capital expenditure is not eligible.

Q) Can we use this funding to fund existing schemes such as No Second Night Out?

A) This round of funding is about making links with local partners such as health, probation and Job Centre Plus services to address the challenges facing a single homeless person and prevent them from becoming homeless. It is not intended to continue to fund existing services.

Q) Who are you trying to help with this scheme?

We have intentionally defined the client group widely to give local authorities the scope to tackle local challenges in their area. This funding is for anyone at risk of homelessness or already homeless, who would not be owed the main homelessness duty (primarily single people or couples without dependents).

Q) Do we have to focus on a particular cohort or client need level for our bid?

A) Local authorities are free to define their own cohorts and client needs levels, as long as they fit within the wide definition above. We do ask however, that bidders include details of the cohort they intend to work with and an estimation of their needs levels. If you intend to work with a mixture of client cohorts and needs levels, please provide an estimate of numbers for each of these.

Q) Can we use this to fund services for those owed the main homelessness duty?

A) No. This funding may not be spent on activities related to the statutory homelessness duty.

Administrative Process

Q) Will we need to apply for a second round of funding next year?

A) No. The funding is for financial years 2014/5 and 2015/16. There is only one round of funding but you will be paid in two instalments (one in autumn 2014 and another in spring 2015). Please provide details of funding required by financial year.

Q) Who do we contact if we have a question about our bid?

A) Please contact your local Homeless Link manager. Contact details can be found in the bidding prospectus.

Q) Are we guaranteed the second year of funding?

A) You will be asked to complete a short survey from Homeless Link towards the end of the first financial year. We would expect to see progress towards delivering the services set out in your bid within the necessary timeframe. If this was not the case, we would need to consider whether to fund the second year.

Q) Do we have to spend funding within the years allocated?

A) Yes. Funding is granted to authorities with the expectation that it is spent within the financial year it is allocated.

Q) Will there be further funding after this round of funding?

A) No. We are not able to commit funding beyond the current spending review period (up to March 2016). Sustainability is included in the bidding criteria. We encourage groupings to think carefully about how services will continue post funding.

Q) When will we find out whether we have been successful?

A) Autumn 2014. We will confirm the details nearer the time.

Q) If we are successful when will we receive the funding?

A) Soon after the successful bids are announced. You will receive your funding in two instalments – one in autumn 2014 and another in spring 2015.