

Adventures Away from Home - Clarification Questions

Fund questions:

1. Is this funding available outside of England?

The funding must be spent in England.

2. Is there an expectation for geographical reach?

Yes, we would like to see a good spread of funding reaching young people across the whole of England.

3. What will DCMS's role be?

DCMS will promote the fund and carry out regular monitoring through meetings and quarterly project boards. DCMS will also process payments to the delivery partner and support with setting up and reviewing the evaluation.

4. Is the delivery partner able to use some of the funding to deliver themselves?

Yes. Any proposals including direct delivery should be outlined in the application and must demonstrate value for money.

5. If the delivery partner is able to provide direct delivery themselves, does DCMS have a minimum amount you would expect to be granted out? Eg, 50%, 20%?

The proposal for direct delivery from the delivery partner will be considered alongside proposals from onward grantees to ensure it meets the fund objectives and represents value for money.

The thresholds will therefore be decided with the delivery partner once the fund opens, however we expect the majority of funding to go to other organisations in onward grants to ensure spread across England.

6. Your tender document states 'up to 7500 young people'. Will bids proposing less than this be marked down?

The delivery partner will need to demonstrate a process of running a competition and assessing bids to ensure bursaries reach up to 7,500 young people.

7,500 bursaries, which may be day trips or residentials, is a guideline based on average delivery costs and the grant value; applications will be assessed on the feasibility of the project as a whole, including quality of the outdoor adventures funded. We therefore recommend that you propose the number of bursaries that your organisation is capable of assessing within the timeframe set out.

7. Are there any specific outcomes expected to be delivered?

We will work with the delivery partner to develop an evaluation that measures the impact of the fund, for example in terms of mental health, environmental awareness and social development.

The deliverables are outlined on the gov.uk page.

8. Is there an indicative percentage of the budget which the department expects to see allocated to evaluation, and is this outside the maximum 6% available for administration costs?

We anticipate that the evaluation can be covered by the administration costs in line with the previous Adventures Away from Home funding, however proposals requesting additional evaluation funding proportionate the size of the overall fund will be considered. The delivery partner must be able to demonstrate they can carry out the evaluation and meet the objectives of the fund.

The delivery partner can choose to deliver the evaluation internally or commission it externally.

9. The deadline for spend is 31 March 2024. Does this apply to just spend by the delivery partner or by the onward grantees as well?

Grant funding must be used in the financial year for which it was given - the delivery partner and onward grantees will both need to spend the funding by 31 March 2024.

10. Do all activities need to have been carried out by 31 March 2024? If the funding is distributed for delivery within the specified timeframe, can some of the delivery run into the next financial year (e.g. to include the April 2024 Easter holidays)?

All funding must be spent by 31 March 2024. The timeline for delivery will be agreed with the delivery partner once they are selected and published later this year.

11. Can funding be used to fund activities that have taken place already?

No, funding cannot be used to fund activities that have already happened.

12. When does the fund open to service providers (local community groups) to apply for a share of the funding?

The delivery partner will open the fund later this year. We anticipate delivery to commence before the end of the year, with the full funding spent by March 2024.

13. Will onward grant funding be national or regional?

We would expect the delivery partner to advertise the funding across the sector across England.

14. How do service providers apply for a share of the funding?

We expect that delivery partner applications outline the most effective way to deliver the funding to grantees, and they will publish the details of how to apply for the funding.

15. Is there a minimum number of grantees that you expect to receive funding?

There is no minimum number of grantees we expect. Onward funding must represent value for money, be spread across England and reach up to 7,500 young people. Onwards grantees should only apply for funding they can distribute in the timeframes set out.

We also expect that delivery partner applications outline the most effective way to deliver the funding to grantees. Targets will be agreed with the delivery partner once they are selected and these will be made available when the fund opens later this year.

16. When the fund opens for grantees to apply, will organisations be able to apply for funding to then distribute to their members, or for young people to apply to directly?

We will work with the selected delivery partner to decide the best distribution mechanism. Whichever approach is taken we will ensure the delivery partner has robust processes in place to detect fraud and ensure funding goes to young people most in need, and to guarantee the young people are appropriately supported throughout.

17. Can organisations advertise the fund to groups/other organisations they work with?

At this stage, we are looking for a delivery partner. Once they have been selected, they will begin accepting applications for funding. You are welcome to signpost organisations to the fund once the delivery partner has opened the fund for applications.

18. What is the split for day-trips/residentials? Do you require the adventures to include at least one overnight stay or are day trips allowed should they better meet certain young people's needs?

We do not have a set split for day-trips/residentials. We expect prospective delivery partners to include indicative numbers of day-trips/residentials in their applications when outlining their proposed delivery model and budget. There will be scope to adapt this as the fund progresses based on interest and capability of onward grantees.

Further details on the expected number of day-trips and residentials will therefore be announced once the delivery partner is selected.

19. Are the outdoor learning opportunities intended to be in the young person's local area?

The outdoor learning opportunities do not necessarily need to be in the young person's local area, however as part of the funding, activities and opportunities must represent value for money.

20. Can organisations take young people abroad?

As this fund seeks to support England-based outdoor learning providers and centres, it is unlikely that opportunities abroad will meet the aims of the fund.

The full details of the types of activities that will be eligible will be outlined when the fund opens later this year.

21. Can the Adventure Away from Home activities be run alongside other programmes?

The details and criteria for the onward granted will be published later this year once the delivery partner is selected. The funding can only be used for outdoor learning experiences for eligible young people and cannot be used to supplement other programmes.

22. Can the funded opportunities include residentials that take place in school time?

We do not anticipate there to be any limits regarding the time activities take place, however funding will only be available to eligible VCSE organisations to cover costs for eligible young people. Schools will not be able to apply for funding.

Further details will be released later this year when the fund opens.

23. Could the bursaries be used to part-fund visits which included a proportion of underrepresented young people?

A day trip or residential could include a mixture of both eligible and ineligible young people. However, the bursaries can only cover the costs of the opportunity and transport for the eligible young person/people in the group. The funding must not be used to supplement costs for ineligible young people.

24. Do unaccompanied asylum seekers qualify as an underrepresented group and if so, to what age would they meet the criteria (under 18 or under 25?)

Any young person experiencing disadvantage or vulnerabilities that impacts their ability to partake in adventures away from home is eligible for funding, which may include unaccompanied asylum seekers in the care of the local authority up to age 18.

The full eligibility criteria will be decided once the delivery partner is selected. It will be outlined when the fund opens later in the year

25. Can disadvantaged young people extend to those in rural isolation, traveller communities and LGBTQ+ and those with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties?

Any young person experiencing disadvantage or vulnerabilities that impacts their ability to partake in adventures away from home is eligible for funding, such as young people living in poverty, young people with SEND, young carers and looked after young people, girls and young women, BAME (British, Asian and Minority Ethnic) young people, those with English as an Additional Language, those in the secure estate and those with poor academic attainment.

The full eligibility criteria will be decided once the delivery partner is selected. It will be outlined when the fund opens later in the year

26. We understand that bursaries will be granted to young people who are experiencing hardship or are otherwise vulnerable and are therefore underrepresented in the sector. Can the funds only go to organisations that only have these young people or can they include these young people within a wider group? For example, in a school class or youth group, there may be a few who do not fall into these categories – would they need to be excluded?

Any eligible organisation that works with eligible young people (this does not have to be exclusively) is able to apply for funding. The funding can only be used to cover the cost of any eligible young person within a group and must not be used to supplement costs for those who are ineligible.

27. Do you have per head per visit recommended costings?

We expect the delivery partner to propose a funding model that represents value for money using their expertise and experience. We estimate the average cost per head to be c.£200 - this average was calculated taking into consideration the varying costs of day trips and residentials during the previous Adventures Away from Home Fund.

28. What if DCMS does not find a suitable delivery partner?

There are options for the department to consider should a suitable delivery partner not be chosen through this competition.