

Important Changes to National Lottery Community Fund

Summary of what's staying the same and what's changing

We want to make sure communities in Scotland are able to access our significant National Lottery funds, to help them respond to and recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Our funds will mainly continue to operate as before. But we have made some changes to help make sure our funds better support people and communities through COVID-19.

The full details are laid out below, but here are the key points:

- Our National Lottery Awards for All (up to £10k) and Young Start (up to £100k) funds remain open and unchanged
- Our other funds will remain open for a further 18-24 months, and will mainly continue to operate as before.
- We can still fund all the types of project we could before - but we are expanding what we will fund through our Improving Lives fund.
- For our funds offering more than £10k the maximum grant length will now be three years, and we will assess applications more quickly.

The details of what's changing

Our [Community-Led Activity fund](#) will now fund up to a maximum of three years, and we will be happy to consider applications for shorter-term projects. Turnaround time for applications will be reduced to approximately three months.

We've expanded our [Improving Lives fund](#) (website will be updated Fri 4 Dec). We will now fund work that:

- supports children, young people and families currently experiencing challenging circumstances
- supports people that have experienced abuse
- tackles loss, isolation or loneliness
- supports people that experience discrimination and/or works to challenge discrimination
- supports people facing financial hardship

Turnaround time for applications will be reduced to approximately three months. As announced in September, Improving Lives grants are now available for up to three years and the maximum grant size is £200,000.

We understand that everything we do now has been impacted by the pandemic so we no longer have a **separate application process for applications responding to the impact of COVID-19**. But we will still be happy to discuss how we might support responses to the pandemic through our funds.

We are also keen to help build on some of the amazing community responses to the pandemic.

We will continue to review our funds regularly over the next 18-24 months. We will keep you updated on any further changes we make.

Briefing sessions

We are holding two informal briefing sessions for people offering funding advice and other support to the sector on the following dates:

[Thu, 10 December, 16:00 - 16:45 - sign up here](#)

[Mon, 14 December 2020, 11:00 - 11:45 - sign up here](#)

We'll use these sessions to talk through the changes above, and to answer any questions you may have. Both sessions will cover the same material.