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Scotland  
The national agency for youth work

# COVID-19 Residential Outdoor Education Centre Recovery Fund

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Guidance for Applicants (Round Two)

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### 1. Background

The emergence of COVID-19 in Scotland has negatively affected residential outdoor education centres. Nationwide school closures in March 2020 resulted in school groups cancelling bookings for the remaining part of the 2019/20 academic year.

Furthermore, in August 2020 the Scottish Government advised against domestic school visits that include an overnight stay for the autumn term of the 2020/21 academic year. This advice was given in recognition that such visits could increase the risk of the transmission of COVID-19. Ultimately, this has meant that many residential outdoor education centres are still unable to increase business to levels that may have been expected before the emergence of the current pandemic.

The reduced utilisation of residential outdoor education centres has not solely affected the centres. It has also reduced educational opportunity for children and young people across Scotland.

Outdoor learning can improve health and wellbeing; personal and social development; and attainment across the curriculum. Undertaking outdoor learning at outdoor education centres also affords specific benefits that are unlikely to be replicated in other settings. Children and young people benefit by becoming immersed in the outdoor learning experience and can develop resilience, risk awareness and independence whilst undertaking curricular relevant activities.

The immersive, fun and curricular-relevant opportunities that residential outdoor education centres provide also offer particular benefits for children and young people during the pandemic. Children and young people are likely to have spent more time indoors since March 2020, which may have affected their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

In response, the Scottish Government announced the £2 million Covid-19 Residential Outdoor Education Centre Recovery Fund that will provide financial support to residential outdoor education centres that have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions. The funding aims to keep the centres in business – allowing them to continue to benefit current and future generations of learners – and allow centre staff to support outdoor learning in schools and other formal education settings where appropriate.

The fund is open to third sector and private sector centres that routinely provided curricular relevant, residential outdoor learning opportunities for children and young people aged 3-18 years before March 2020, and that can demonstrate a negative financial impact as a result of a loss of residential activity since the emergence of the current pandemic.

## 2. Structure of the Fund:

There will be two separate rounds.

### Round One (now closed):

Supported residential outdoor education centres to manage financial losses until June 2021, the end of the academic year in Scotland.

### Round Two:

The aim of Round Two is to support educational outcomes by funding centre-employed staff to deliver outdoor learning with schools and other formal education settings during the remainder of the 2020/21 academic year.

A key objective of round two is to support children and young people who have been most affected by lost learning during the pandemic.

## 3. Guidance for Applicants (Round Two)

### 3.1 What organisations are eligible?

The fund is open only to residential outdoor education centres that:

- are located in Scotland;
- operate in the third sector or private sector;
- routinely\* provided curricular relevant residential outdoor education opportunities for young people aged 3 – 18 from education settings before March 2020;
- can demonstrate a negative financial impact due to a lack of residential activity since the emergence of the current pandemic; and
- are applying in partnership with a nursery, school or college.

Any residential outdoor education centres meeting the above criteria may apply. You do not need to have received funding under round one of this fund to apply.

### 3.2 How to apply to the fund.

Round Two will open for applications on **11 January 2021** and close on **5 February 2021**. The link to the application form will be available on the YouthLink Scotland website.

Centres are invited to apply **in partnership** with schools or other formal education settings. Partnerships should be agreed and in place at the point of application.

Round two of the Covid-19 Residential Outdoor Education Centre Recovery Fund is a competitive fund. Applications will be assessed and scored according to fit with the fund criteria (see section 3.4 below).

### 3.3 Fund outcomes:

The proposed outdoor learning experiences should achieve at least two of the following outcomes for young people:

- Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Development of skills for life.
- Improved learner engagement.
- Progress in related Curriculum for Excellence areas and subjects.
- Improved connection with and appreciation of nature and place.

The above outcomes are wide ranging and can be delivered differently in different contexts. There is no right or wrong way to achieve these outcomes through outdoor learning. Applicants should work with their partner formal education setting(s) to interpret the outcomes and design delivery in the most appropriate way.

### 3.4 Fund/Assessment criteria:

Eligible (see eligibility criteria above) applications to the fund will be assessed according to the extent to which they demonstrate the following:

- 1. A meaningful partnership approach** – Details of formal education partners should be given in the application form. Partnerships should be in place at the point of application. You should make clear in your application how formal education partners were involved in planning the proposed activity and how they will support evaluation and reporting.
- 2. A targeted approach** – A key objective of this fund is to contribute to education recovery work. You should make clear in your application how you have worked with partners to ensure that the proposed activity benefits those young people most disadvantaged by Covid-19.
- 3. A quality learning experience for young people** – You should make clear the learning programme that underpins the proposed activity and the link between proposed activity and the selected outcomes for young people (is it clear how the proposed activity will lead to the outcomes described?).
- 4. Value for money** – While the quality of the opportunity offered to young people is of most importance, assessors will also consider if the proposal provides value for money.

### 3.5 Timeline:

**Fund opens for applications** - 11th January 2021.

**Closing date for applications** – 5th February 2021.

**Notice of award** – w/c 22nd February 2021.

**Project delivery** – by end of June 2021.

## 4. Help with completing the application form

### Section 2 – About your organisation.

#### **Q1. Organisation name.**

This should be the formal name of your organisation.

#### **Q5. Tell us about the governance arrangement for your organisation.**

Tell us about the processes and structures (board/sub-committees etc.) your organisation has in place to ensure the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision and accountability of your organisation and how this supports delivery.

(Good governance ensures compliance with law and regulation; that an organisation is well run and efficient; that problems are identified early and dealt with appropriately; strategic direction; accountability and learning).

#### **Q8. What is the vision/mission of your organisation?**

This is your opportunity to demonstrate that the mission/vision of your organisation and how these link with the fund criteria.

### Section 3 – About your project.

#### **Q2. What do you want to do? (please detail the programme you want us to fund).**

You should ensure that you clearly set out your programme plan and demonstrate that you have commitment from a formal education setting. It should be clear to assessors how the programme will work, key steps and stages, who will do what. You should ensure that assessors can see the logical connection between what you plan to do (your activities) and the impact you are trying to make (outcomes for young people) and that a clear learning plan underpins the activities.

#### **Q3. Tell us how the proposed activity supports the fund objectives you selected above.**

Tell us how your programme will support learning outcomes for young people and contribute towards reducing the poverty related attainment gap.

#### **Q4. Please tell us whether the proposed activity is flexible enough to take place within local and national guidance on Covid-19 recovery.**

Tell us how you have incorporated Covid-19 restrictions and guidance (both national guidance and guidance in effect at your partner school or other setting) into the planning of your project to ensure it is deliverable.

#### **Q5. Start date of project/end date of project.**

Projects must be delivered between February 2021 and the end of June 2021.

#### **Q6. In which local authority area will the project be delivered.**

Please indicate which local authority areas/s you will work in.

## **Section 4 - Partners.**

Tell us about any partners involved and their role. The involvement of partners you list here should be confirmed already. There is an expectation that formal education partners are involved in the planning and evaluation of proposed activity.

## **Section 6 – Outcomes for Young People.**

Select the two most relevant outcomes and the (anticipated) number of young people who will achieve these outcomes as a result of your project.

**Help note – is there a clear link between your description of your project (in section 3) and these outcomes? This is one of the criteria on which applications will be assessed.**

Please give a clear description of the evaluation methods you and your partner will use to gather the evidence required to demonstrate that the project has achieved the expected outcomes.

## **Section 8 – Finance.**

### **Q1. Please detail what funding you require:**

All costs related directly to delivery are eligible (including all staff time related to health and safety).

This fund cannot support capital costs.

**Please note – match and/or in-kind funding is not required but please tell us about this where it is in place. If your proposed activity is dependent on match- funding this must be in place.**

## **9. Applicant support sessions**

Online applicant support sessions are available on the dates below.

Thursday 17th of December 2.00pm-3.00pm.

Monday 18th of January 2021 – 11am-12pm.

Please contact Roisin Bathe to register [rbathe@youthlinkscotland.org](mailto:rbathe@youthlinkscotland.org)

## **10. Further Support:**

If you have any questions or require further support, please contact:

Jane Dailly, National Grants Manager, YouthLink Scotland [jdailly@youthlinkscotland.org](mailto:jdailly@youthlinkscotland.org)





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