



Scottish Government
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YouthLink
Scotland
The national agency for youth work

COVID-19 --- Outdoor Education Recovery Fund

Guidance for Applicants

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1. Background

The emergence of COVID-19 in Scotland during the early part of 2020 has had a negative impact on the delivery of education in Scotland. The closure of schools and other education settings from March 2020 and January 2021 has caused disruption to learning and teaching and has affected the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Education recovery is now a key focus for those working across 3-18 education with nurseries open, schools having returned full time in April 2021 and further education establishments continuing towards a phased reopening.

Outdoor learning can make a significant contribution to children and young people's learning and recovery as it can improve health and wellbeing; aid personal and social development; and support attainment across the curriculum. Outdoor education is referenced in the Scottish Government's guidance "[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Curriculum for Excellence in the Recovery Phase](#)". The outdoor environment can also reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and allow more space for physical distancing between staff and consistent groups of learners. Indeed, the COVID-19 Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues has commented that there "is consistent evidence that the risk of transmission outdoors is low, and the benefits of outdoor activity are well recognised".

The Scottish Government, in partnership with YouthLink Scotland, has therefore established this £500,000 fund aimed at supporting outdoor education specialists to be deployed to support outdoor learning at schools or other formal education settings. Activity should be focused at or close to the formal education setting to demonstrate the accessibility and potential of outdoor activity in day-to-day learning.

Please note that proposals for both term-time and holiday programmes (including transition support) are welcome and can be supported by the fund.

The fund is open to third sector and private sector organisations that routinely provide curricular-relevant outdoor learning opportunities to children and young people aged 3-18 years.

2. Guidance for Applicants

2.1 What organisations are eligible?

The fund is open only to organisations that:

- are located in Scotland;
- operate in the third sector or private sector;
- routinely provide curricular relevant outdoor learning opportunities for
- young people aged 3 – 18; and:
- are applying in partnership with one or more formal education establishment such as a nursery, school or college (you may apply in partnership with a group of educational establishments (e.g. a schools cluster in a local authority area)

2.2 How to apply to the fund.

The fund will open for applications on **Tuesday the 20th April 2021**

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

This is a competitive fund. Applications will be assessed and scored according to fit with the fund criteria (see section 2.4 below).

2.3 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 an appreciation of, nature and place.

In addition, applications must demonstrate how the planned activity will help staff at the formal education setting(s) to develop confidence and experience in relation to supporting outdoor learning. This may include but not be limited to: involving staff in supporting delivery; sharing guidance or techniques (that are appropriate for non-qualified staff) and/or providing more formal lesson plans.

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.

2.4 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 in respect of the reach and impact of the proposal.

5. Legacy and building capacity – Assessors will consider the likely medium and longer-term impact of the proposal in terms of building the capacity of practitioners and staff to continue activity beyond the funding phase.

6. Additionality – your proposal should outline how it is addressing a particular gap in provision or need that is not being met in other ways at the partner formal education setting. Is the model you are proposing scalable or innovative? Could others learn from it in and adapt to meet their needs?

* Please also note that in the interests of supporting young people across Scotland, the national assessment panel will also take into account the geographical spread of the fund.

2.5 Timeline:

Fund opens for applications – Tuesday 20th April 2021

Closing date for applications – Friday 14th May 2021

Notice of award – w/c 31st May 2021

Project delivery – from June 2021 to 30th of November 2021

Project reports due – 17th December 2021

4. Help with completing the application form

Section 2 (application form) – 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 (application form) – 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 how it delivers on the fund's assessment criteria (see para 2.4 above). 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 1st June 2021 and 31st November 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 (application form) - 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 (i.e. schools or other education settings) are involved in the planning and evaluation of proposed activity.

Section 6 (application form) – 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 2) 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 (application form) – 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.

27th April – 11am – 12pm

4th May – 11am – 12pm

10th May – 11am – 12pm

Please contact Roisin Bathe to register 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



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