

Reducing Parental Conflict - Challenge Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

How much funding is available?

The total value of the Challenge Fund is £2.7 million split across two strands:

- £1.6 million for digital support for families (Digital Support)
- £1.1 million for support for families with existing disadvantages that place them at greater risk of parental conflict (Support for Disadvantaged Families)

Applicants to the Digital Support strand of the Fund can apply for between £100,000 and £1.6 million. Applicants should note that we expect to fund three to five Digital Support initiatives in total. We are only likely to fund a very large (over £1 million) initiative if it is of truly exceptional quality and reach.

Applicants to the Support for Disadvantaged Families strand of the Fund can apply for between £100,000 and £250,000.

How do I apply?

The application process consists of three stages.

1. Self-assessment:

From 11 January, applicants will be able to complete the online checklist before deciding if you wish to submit your initiative idea for an eligibility check. This will enable you to identify quickly whether your application is likely to meet the Challenge Fund criteria.

2. Eligibility check:

From 11 January, you will be able to tell us about your idea (basic information). Initiative ideas that clearly do not meet the Fund criteria will not be allowed to proceed past this stage. If we need further information, we may contact you about your idea.

3. Complete your application:

Organisations that have completed an eligibility check and have been invited to apply to the Fund will be able to access the online application portal between 21 January and 15 February.

Who can apply?

The Fund is open to organisations from the public, private and third sectors. Individuals cannot apply for a grant from the Fund.

It is important to understand that we expect organisations or partnerships applying to the Fund to have specific experience and expertise. The Fund guidance sets out in detail our expectations of applicants.

Is it a requirement that applications are from a partnership?

No. Applicants are not required to have partners; initiatives can involve just one organisation.

However, for Digital Support initiatives in particular applicants are strongly encouraged to work in partnership. This is because we will expect Digital Support initiatives to bring together relationship expertise and digital expertise.

For Supporting Disadvantaged Families initiatives we would also encourage applicants to consider working in partnership.

The Challenge Fund is aimed at reducing conflict below the threshold of domestic abuse only. How does government define what is domestic abuse?

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse.

Who owns the intellectual property rights (IPR) of any content produced by initiatives?

IPR remains the property of the grant recipient but the grant recipient must grant a free licence to the Department for Work and Pensions to use whatever they produce.

How long will I have to wait for a decision?

We aim to inform applicants of the outcome of their application by 31 March 2019.

Are you looking for national projects or local ones?

We do not want to limit the geographic reach of initiatives. It is important that your application clearly shows the rationale behind your initiative.

Can we apply for funding for project overhead costs?

You can include some of your overheads in your budget as well as the direct costs of your initiative.

Overheads are costs that partly support your initiative, but also support other projects or activities that your organisation provides. These could be a proportion of salaries of core staff such as administrators. They could also be rent and utilities costs. Most organisations will have their own way of apportioning overhead costs to projects.

Overhead costs should be wholly justifiable and ideally not exceed 10% of your total initiative cost.

Can I include VAT in my budget?

You may only include VAT in your costs if your organisation cannot recover VAT from HM Revenue and Customs. We regret we are unable to give any advice to individual organisations regarding their VAT liabilities. We would encourage organisations to seek professional advice.

Is match funding required?

No, it is not required.

You are able to include funds from elsewhere if you wish to do so, but these should ideally not be more than 20% of your total budget. Any funding from other sources must be secured.

Are costs for assets or capital items eligible?

No. We will not fund equipment or assets that have a lasting value beyond the activities we are funding.

The Guidance for each strand of the Fund includes a full list of ineligible costs.

Can I apply for funding to support a bursary, grant or equivalent to allow someone to conduct research or pay for education or study?

No. This would not be eligible.

Is this funding only available for organisations and activities in England?

Support for Disadvantaged Families applicants must be based in, and delivery must take place in, England.

Digital Support applicants must be based within the United Kingdom to submit applications to the Digital Support strand. Initiatives will be required to focus on an English audience although this support will be available to families living elsewhere within the United Kingdom.

Can I submit more than one application?

Acting as the lead applicant, organisations must not submit more than one application to each strand of the Challenge Fund.

Organisations may be involved in multiple applications where they are listed as a partner.

What is the relationship between Ecorys UK and the Department for Work and Pensions?

The Department for Work and Pensions appointed Ecorys UK, a grant administrator, to oversee the application and award process of this Fund.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

If you have a question that is not answered here, or in the Fund Guidance, then please contact us through the [‘Contact’ page of the Challenge Fund website](#).

We regret we are unable to advise on the strength of your <https://www.reducingparentalconflictfund.co.uk/Home/Contact> project idea.