

Proudly supporting
youth social action



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport



Foundation

Peer-to-peer support to improve wellbeing during the transition from primary to secondary school: application guidance

Introduction

In January 2020, we are launching a new round of the Co-op Foundation #iwill Fund. This fund supports the aim of the #iwill campaign to make social action part of life for as many 10 to 20 year-olds as possible, forming a habit of community involvement they will continue as adults.

The overall focus of our #iwill Fund is supporting social action that draws on young people's own lived experience in order to:

- connect young people to social action opportunities that lead to genuine community impact
- empower them through the difference this makes for themselves and their peers.

This round of our #iwill Fund focuses on peer-to-peer support to improve children's wellbeing during the period in which they move from primary to secondary school. This might typically begin any time during School Years 5 or 6 and continue into Years 7 to 8.

Is this funding right for you?

This strand of #iwill funding may be right for you if you:

- are a Multi-Academy Trust, school, charity, social enterprise, or other constituted voluntary or community organisation with a UK bank account in your organisation's name and at least two unconnected people on the board or management committee
- are based in England, and plan to work in one of the 30% most deprived areas
- have experience of working with young people in the transition from primary to secondary school, or of supporting high-quality youth social action, and have a realistic plan for a peer-to-peer support project focused on the transition from primary to secondary school.

We welcome applications from organisations working in partnership, including approaches which involve both voluntary and public sectors such as a collaboration between a school and community organisation. In any partnership arrangement, one lead partner will need to be responsible for the grant.

About the fund

Lots of the grants we've previously given through our #iwill Fund have funded peer-to-peer support as a form of youth social action. One of these projects is delivered by Make Some Noise, who are facilitating peer-to-peer support during the transition from primary to secondary school. This project has highlighted how meaningful peer-to-peer support can improve wellbeing during the transition from primary to secondary school, and how motivated young people are in helping others find a support network.

You can find out more about Make Some Noise's project [here](#).

In this round, we expect to make eight grants of up to £35,000 over one year. Successful organisations will have the opportunity to apply for a further 2 years' funding to build on their learning and focus on sustaining their impact.

What can funding be used for?

You can apply for up to £35,000 to cover any costs related to carrying out your project, including but not limited to:

- salaries of staff involved in delivering or supporting the project
- costs of project activities
- proportionate contributions to organisational running costs required to support the delivery of the project
- costs for learning and evaluation activities.

What we're looking for

Applications will be reviewed by our Youth Advisory Group, so please make your application clear and easy to understand, for example make sure any technical terms are explained and your responses have had input from young people themselves. Your application will be assessed using the following criteria.

1. An approach which draws on youth voice and young people's lived experiences

We're interested in organisations who can support young people to take the lead and develop peer-to-peer support.

Your approach should be informed by young people themselves who feel there is a strong need for your project. We are interested in projects which draw on young people's first-hand experiences and insights about moving from primary to secondary school.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit creative content which will be shared with our Youth Advisory Group. We will ask you to send us something created by the young people you currently work with, explaining why this project is important to them and how you'll make sure young people can get involved. The creative content could be written, recorded, drawn, photographed or filmed. Further information will be sent to organisations who are shortlisted.

2. An approach which focuses on peer-to-peer support as a form of youth social action

We want to fund organisations who understand what high-quality youth social action is and have experience of equipping young people with the skills they need to deliver meaningful peer support.

We want to see a focus on improving wellbeing through peer-to-peer support. When we refer to wellbeing we mean a young person feeling healthy, happy and safe.

Approaches should focus on young people helping each other in a planned and structured way, which have considered the necessary recruitment, training, and guidance required for young people to deliver meaningful peer-to-peer support.

Organisations should be equipped to support young people navigating sensitive topics. This means you'll need to have carefully considered safeguarding, confidentiality, and the wellbeing of young people involved.

We want young people to be encouraged to progress on to future social action opportunities after the project has ended.

3. Evaluation and Learning

We're interested in approaches that can demonstrate a clear double benefit - to the young people who provide support (for example, developing their skills) and to the young people who benefit from that peer support.

Organisations should draw on existing experience and best practice to inform their project, and consider how to develop new learning which will be used by your organisation in future and shared with others.

4. Diversity and inclusion

We want to fund organisations which can show they are open and welcoming to young people, and make active efforts to include people who may face barriers to getting involved.

You'll need to show that your project will benefit young people living in the 30% most deprived areas and that you understand your local area well. If you like, you can refer to sources of data such as [Co-op's Community Wellbeing Index](#) or the [English Index of Multiple Deprivation](#).

5. Organisational health

We will look for evidence that your organisation is well-run and is in a position to take on this level and type of grant funding.

How to apply

Submit your application using [this online form](#) by **midday on 24th February 2020**.

You can also download a Word document version of the application questions [here](#). However, applications must be submitted via the online form.

Application timeline

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 21st January | Applications open |
| 24th February | Deadline to submit initial applications |
| 6th March | Shortlisted applicants notified and asked invited to submit additional information, including policies, a detailed budget and your creative content Unsuccessful applicants receive an email from us with the decision |
| 20th March | Deadline to submit additional information |
| End of April | Final grant decisions made by Co-op Foundation Trustees |
| Early May | Successful applicants notified by email and receive a grant offer letter Unsuccessful shortlisted applicants receive an email from us with the decision |

Contact us

If you have any questions about this fund, please contact foundation@coop.co.uk

Additional background information

Since 2017, the Co-op Foundation has awarded more than £2 million through our #iwill Fund. Previous rounds of funding have focused on:

- projects aimed at addressing youth loneliness through high quality youth social action opportunities
- opportunities for young people to draw on their lived experience advocate for improvements to community spaces

In 2020, we are launching two further rounds of our #iwill Fund, focusing on:

- peer-to-peer support through the transition from primary to secondary school (January 2020)
- peer-to-peer support for young people who have experienced bereavement (due to launch in February 2020).

The #iwill campaign

#iwill is a UK-wide campaign that aims to make social action part of life for as many 10 to 20 year-olds as possible, forming a habit of community involvement they will continue as adults.

For more information about what youth social action is, the #iwill campaign and the findings from the 2018 National Youth Social Action survey, visit www.iwill.org.uk.

The #iwill Fund

The #iwill Fund is a £40 million joint investment from the National Lottery Community Fund, using National Lottery funding, and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities. Co-op Foundation is acting as a match funder.