



# Young Gamechangers Fund

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Round One – November 2023

### General FAQs

#### What is the Young Gamechangers Fund?

It's bold. It's built with young people. And it's changing the way youth-led funding is delivered forever.

Young people are transforming communities into safer, more sustainable and more inclusive places to live, powered by the £4.5m Young Gamechangers Fund from Co-op, the Co-op Foundation and the #iwill Fund.

Young people creating change in their communities are now able to apply for up to £20k a year to improve their communities and deliver on Co-op's vision of 'Co-operating for a Fairer World'.

Groups, organisations and individual activists can check their eligibility now by taking our [eligibility quiz](#).

#### Who created the Young Gamechangers Fund and why?

For too long, young people have been left out of the decisions that affect them the most.

The £4.5m Young Gamechangers Fund from Co-op, the Co-op Foundation and the #iwill Fund will tackle this head-on with grants of up to £20k a year for young people across the UK, transforming communities into safer, more sustainable and more inclusive places to live.

The Young Gamechangers Fund is putting young people at the heart of change and is co-designed with our amazing Steering Group – young people aged 18 – 24 from all over the UK. The Fund is delivered by the Global Fund for Children and Restless Development.

Together, we want to transform the way that youth-led activism, social change and movement building are funded in the UK. We'll share everything we learn on the way so more funders, charities, and co-operators can confidently give power to young people.

### **How does the Young Gamechangers Fund decide who gets funding?**

The Young Gamechangers Fund puts key decisions in the hands of young people. Through a participatory grantmaking process, our Steering Group will make funding recommendations alongside the Co-op Foundation's youth trustees. Final decisions will be ratified by the Co-op Foundation Board based on the recommendations of the Steering Group.

The Steering Group will review applications throughout December and January, and all applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by 1st March 2024.

### **Who is involved in the Young Gamechangers Fund?**

#### **Our funding partners**

The Co-op Foundation is Co-op's charity, and it's co-operating for a fairer world. The Foundation believes co-operation is at the heart of strong communities, and this makes it a different kind of funder.

It works closely with communities; it listens and learns. It unlocks communities' power by focusing on those who have the most at stake. The Co-op Foundation asked young people to shape its vision, and now it's co-operating with them and others to turn this into a reality. The Co-op Foundation – building communities of the future together.

The #iwill Fund is made possible thanks to a £50 million joint investment from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high-quality social action opportunities. The Co-op Foundation is acting as a match funder and awarding grants on behalf of the #iwill Fund.

The Co-op is one of the world's largest consumer co-operatives, owned by millions of members. They're a recognised leader for our social goals and community-led programmes. They exist to meet members' needs and stand up for the things they believe in.

#### **Our delivery partners**

Global Fund for Children (GFC) partners with community-based organisations around the world, helping them deepen their impact and develop their capacity for social change. By offering flexible funding and a range of capacity development services, GFC centres children, young people, and

their communities as drivers of systemic change. Since 1997, we have invested over \$56 million in more than 1,000 organisations worldwide.

Restless Development is a non-profit global agency supporting young leaders' collective power to create a better world. Every year they train, mentor, nurture and connect thousands of young people to use their youth power in their communities. Restless Development believes that how they do their work is as important as what they do. To recognise this, they have embraced a power-shifting approach that recognises the growing inequalities and injustices in our world and intentionally shifts power, enabling young people and communities who have previously been marginalised to lead change.

**I'm unsure what some words or phrases in your eligibility criteria mean. Can you help?**

Yes! Please check out our glossary of the main terms we use at the bottom of this document!

**What is the application process?**

The application process is in two stages:

- You will need to complete our [eligibility quiz](#) to ensure that you meet our core eligibility criteria and are able to apply.
- If you are eligible to apply, you will then be directed to the online form to complete your application.
- The application process is supportive; you can email [ygf@globalfundforchildren.org](mailto:ygf@globalfundforchildren.org) with any questions.

**Can I apply for funding if I'm not in one of the priority areas or groups identified in the eligibility criteria?**

Yes! If you meet the core eligibility criteria and have received the link to the application form, we welcome your application, even if you are not in one of the groups or themes specifically encouraged to apply.

**I am working with young people who are not able to submit an application independently. Am I able to apply on their behalf?**

The Young Gamechangers Fund recognises that some young people need more support than others to apply, and we welcome applications from all Young Gamechangers. However, it is important for all applications to demonstrate that they are youth-led [see our glossary of terms at the bottom of this document] and that young people are at the core of decision-making and delivery of activities. If you would like further clarification, please complete our eligibility quiz or get in touch!

**Who makes decisions about the projects that receive funding?**

Decisions are made by our Young Gamechangers Fund Steering Group in collaboration with the Co-op Foundation Board. The Steering Group is made up of young people (18–24) from diverse backgrounds

who are representative of the whole of the UK. The group has personal experience and involvement in various youth social action and youth voice programmes.

### **What can I spend the grant on?**

- Please see our glossary of terms below for a description of project costs and core costs.
- Please see our Individual FAQs section below for information about how funding for individuals can be used.

### **When does Round 1 of the funding close?**

The last day to take the eligibility quiz will be **Thursday, 14 December 2023**. The closing date for all applications will be **12 pm (midday) on Tuesday, 19 December 2023**

## **Organisation/Group FAQs**

### **Can I apply for a grant if my organisation/group does not have a bank account?**

Yes! You can apply even if your organisation does not have its own bank account. There are two main ways to do this:

1. Another organisation that can receive funds on your behalf can serve as your fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsors are organisations that have an existing relationship with our grantees and are willing to receive a grant on their behalf to pass on to them. Our due diligence requires that partner organisations have two unrelated signatories on their bank account. Fiscal sponsors must normally meet this requirement where the organisation doesn't. Implementation and reporting around the grant remain the responsibility of the grantee, not the fiscal sponsor.
2. One member of your group or organisation can sometimes receive the grant directly where the whole group agrees and where this does not put anyone at risk (this would specifically apply where the group does not have a bank account in the name of the group)

No matter what situation you are in, we will work with successful grantees to find a way that works!

### **Does my organisation/group have to be registered to apply for a grant?**

No. Both registered and unregistered groups are eligible to apply.

### **If the young applicant or members of the project group are under the age of 18, will they need consent to take part?**

Young Gamechangers Fund is committed to the safety and well-being of all young people. This may mean that we will need to confirm consent with a parent/guardian or a trusted adult from the organisation e.g. a youth worker, before releasing the grant. If you are successful, we'll work with you to identify the best way to do this.

**Can an organisation/group that has been around for less than a year apply for this grant?**

Yes. Any organisation can apply, regardless of when it was established. Young Gamechangers Fund grants can support new projects and the establishment of new groups but will not support one-off activities and events. You may want to use the templates provided with the application form to help you plan your new project.

**Can we apply for a Young Gamechangers grant with another partner organisation or group(s)?**

Yes. Partnerships or collaborative networks are welcome to apply to the Young Gamechangers Fund as long as none of the partner organisations fall within our funding exclusions check out our eligibility criteria [here](#). Where organisations are applying together, the applicant must be submitted by one lead organisation or group based in and working in the UK that meets all of our eligibility criteria. This lead partner will be responsible for liaising with the Young Gamechangers Fund team on behalf of the partnership or network.

**We are a faith-based organisation/group or operate from a space owned by a faith-based organisation. Can we apply?**

If the project is open to anyone to attend, regardless of their beliefs, and is not trying to convert people to a religion, you can apply for a grant. It may be a good idea to consider if the location of your activity presents a barrier to people taking part.

**What can my organisation/group use a Young Gamechangers grant for?**

There are two types of funding available through the Young Gamechangers Fund. You can either apply for core funding or project funding. Core funding means you can apply for funding for whatever you need. For example, this may include staff costs, running costs, rent, utilities, equipment, and other resources needed to support your organisation or group, as well as project costs, activities or advocacy and campaigning.

Project funding means you are applying for costs to run one particular programme or activity, so is more specific and less flexible. You can see bigger definitions of these types of funding at the bottom of this document!

**What activities are ineligible to apply for?**

- One-time activities, fundraisers, events, travel or scholarships that do not contribute to long-term sustainable community change.
- Activities that support or oppose candidates for public office or party politics.
- Activities or work that try to convert participants to a particular religion or require participants to join or convert to a religion to take part.

- Input VAT reclaimable by itself and Grant Recipients from HMRC.
- Depreciation, amortisation, or impairment of its own fixed assets.
- The acquisition or improvement of fixed assets by the Grant Recipient (unless the grant is explicitly for capital use – this will be stipulated in the Grant Offer Letter).
- Interest payments (including service charge payments for financial leases).
- Gifts to individuals other than promotional items with a value of no more than £10 a year to any one individual.
- Entertaining (entertaining for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit to the person being entertained, according to current UK tax regulations).
- Use to purchase buildings or land.
- Activities that make profits for private gain.
- Loan payments.

## Individual FAQs

### **If I'm under 18, do I need consent to be part of the Young Gamechangers Fund?**

Yes. All applicants under the age of 18 will need consent from a parent or guardian before they can receive the funding. If you have applied as an individual to deliver a project through an established group or organisation, it is possible that a trusted adult (e.g. youth worker) can give consent for the individual and wider group (where they have already sought consent for this work) We will work with you to identify the best way to do this.

### **What costs can be covered by an individual grant?**

- All costs that relate to the delivery of the **project** you are applying for can be included in your application (budget)
- The panel will consider personal costs for individuals (including paying for your time). If you are applying to cover time for yourself or anyone else working on the project, this should be a living wage as a minimum. Find out more [here](#).
- Where identified costs will remove barriers to taking part in a Young Game Changers Fund
- If you have any questions about this, please email us at [ygf@globalfundforchildren.org](mailto:ygf@globalfundforchildren.org)

## **FAQs for everyone!**

### **What is the maximum amount I/we can apply for through the Young Gamechangers Fund?**

Organisations/groups and individuals can apply for grants of up to £20,000 through the Young Gamechangers Fund.

### **What do you mean by youth-led and youth-focused?**

See the glossary of terms below.

### **What language do I need to apply in?**

Your application must be submitted in English. Please do not worry about spelling or grammar – we are much more interested in your work and the changes you want to make.

### **I'm not sure I am eligible for the Young Gamechangers Fund; how can I find out?**

Everyone must complete a short eligibility quiz to access the application form. You can complete this [here](#) and find out if you are eligible before completing the full application form! If you have any questions, you can also get in touch at [ygf@globalfundforchildren.org](mailto:ygf@globalfundforchildren.org)

### **If I am eligible, what questions will I need to answer in my application?**

You can see the full list of application questions for individuals [here](#) AND for groups and organisations [here](#). Remember to fill out our online application to apply!

### **I have another question you haven't answered!**

If we haven't answered your question, please join us for our funding webinar, where you can meet the Young Gamechangers Fund team and ask us questions! You can also email us at [ygf@globalfundforchildren.org](mailto:ygf@globalfundforchildren.org) to request information about webinars.

*Do you have another question we haven't answered? Please email us at [ygf@globalfundforchildren.org](mailto:ygf@globalfundforchildren.org), and we will be happy to respond.*

## **Glossary of terms for Young Gamechangers Fund**

### **Youth-led:**

Where the leadership and decision-making of all stages of a project or activity is made by young people

OR

Young people who cannot take full leadership – due to additional needs or exclusion due to social barriers and constraints – are supported to drive forward a project and ensure maximum input into the design and delivery of the project's activities.

### **Youth Social Action**

Activities that an individual or group of young people do to make a positive difference to others, their community and/or the world

### **Project funding**

Money for developing and delivering a specific project or activity. It can be delivered by a group with funding to cover core costs or a volunteer-led group of young people. It can only be used to cover the costs of the project delivery. This could include materials and resources, promotion, venue hire, transport or staff time spent only on the project. Core organisation costs such as salaries not focused solely on the project and overheads such as utilities and bills cannot be covered by project funding.

### **Core funding**

Money for covering the core costs of an organisation/activism. This could include staff salaries (and associated expenses), organisational overheads (e.g. bills, rent), maintenance of equipment and venues, and other general running costs.

### **Activism**

The use of vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change

### **Campaigning**

To work in an organised or active way towards a particular goal, most typically focused on making political or social change.



**Marginalised**

A social process of relegating specific forms of people to lower status or the outer edge of society. This could include denying people fundamental rights or recognition. Some marginalised groups experience this across all of society, whereas others may experience it locally within their community or area.

**Lived experience/expertise**

This refers to things that someone has experienced themselves that give the person expertise, knowledge or understanding that people who only heard about such experiences do not have.

**Funding programme**

The full period of a grant or fund. It can often last several years and will include all activities related to the grant (including funding groups, related events, and activities and evaluation).

**Funding round**

A set period of time when people can submit an application to receive funding from the programme.

**Community Group/ Organisation**

A collection of people (normally living close to each other) who come together to work for the benefit of the local area and members of the public. They are often informal in structure with simple principles or a code of conduct. Some groups may formalise themselves by adopting a constitution, leadership structure and group bank account.

**Social Enterprise**

Businesses that trade for a social or environmental purpose. They often have a defined mission and use the majority of their profit to further their social and environmental goals.

**Community Interest Company (CIC)**

Similar to a social enterprise. CICs are a limited company that wishes to use their profit and assets for the public good.

**Registered charity**

An organisation with charitable objects (a set of commitments and values) and be for the public benefit. They must be recognised by the Charities Commission, have a governing document, and have trustees responsible for the management of the organisation.

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)**

A CIO or SCIO is a special type of registered charity that combines features of a company and a charity.

**Ratified (in this context)**

To give formal consent for the decisions made by the decision-making panel and agree to the release of funding.