

The Dream Fund was created to encourage charities to collaborate and apply for their dream project, the project they have always wanted to deliver but never had the opportunity to do so.

The Dream Fund supports charities to develop innovative solutions to society's most challenging problems. Applications that can score highly in their originality, ambition and collaborative nature stand the highest chances of being successful.

- ❖ Dream Fund will offer a total award fund of **£3,000,000** for charitable organisations to deliver their 'dream' project in one or more areas in Great Britain in 2018-2020.
- ❖ Charities can apply for up to **£1,000,000** to deliver a project 24 months in length.
- ❖ The Dream Fund encourages not-for-profit organisations to collaborate to deliver a more effective and wide ranging project. All applications must therefore come from **at least two organisations**.
- ❖ One of these organisations **MUST** be a registered charity and be the lead organisation for the project. This organisation will be the main grant contact.
- ❖ The other partners can be charities, voluntary groups, community interest companies, universities or other not-for-profit organisations.
- ❖ Applicants are eligible to apply **ONCE** only, either as a lead or a partner organisation. This restriction also applies to organisations that have multiple branches, e.g. different branches in Scotland and England.
- ❖ Please note that we have restrictions regarding income levels of applicants. The lead partner in any application must have an annual income that is at least two times the amount applied for.
 - For example, if you are applying for £500,000 then the lead partner's annual income must be at least £1,000,000 in the last audited accounts.
 - If you are applying for £1,000,000 then the lead partner's annual income must be at least £2,000,000 in the last audited accounts.
 - There is no maximum upper limit regarding the annual income of applicants.
- ❖ Applications must be innovative, creative and original, and present projects that are a genuine 'dream'.
- ❖ The minimum amount charities may apply for is £500,000.

- ❖ We encourage applicants to think big and be as creative as possible when submitting their application. If you have an idea for the Dream Fund it is always worth contacting the Dream Fund helpdesk and seeing if your project is suitable before applying.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Dream Fund accepts applications that meet one of the following four funding priorities:

- **Supporting families**

We are looking for projects that can deliver a profound difference to the strengthening of families within Britain. We welcome innovative project partnerships that focus on all areas of family support including preventing family breakdown, adoption, fostering, children in care and extended family networks. We welcome applications from partnerships that seek to strengthen families as a way of challenging acute social problems such as tackling homelessness, child poverty and mental illness.

- **Green communities**

People's lack of connection with nature and the environment is an increasing problem of the modern world. If people aren't connected to nature and the environment, they will be less engaged with its preservation and there will be fewer people willing to take action to conserve it. Increasing numbers of people, in particular children from low-income families, report that they have less and less contact with rural or urban wild spaces.

However it is important that people are connected to the natural world for their own benefit as increased access to nature and the environment offers a myriad of physical and mental health benefits. The Dream Fund is looking for projects that can successfully bridge the gap between people and nature and offer original and enduring ways of engaging wide sections of society with the environment and its conservation.

- **Young people**

Successful projects will involve far-reaching programmes that aim to make a transformational improvement in the life chances of young people. This broad theme focuses on the problems young people face including employability, education and social inclusion. Young people are defined as being 16-25 years of age. We particularly welcome applications from diverse project partnerships that seek to engage young people in areas of life that they are disengaged from, such as culture, arts, heritage and the environment.

- **Improving people's lives through animals**

Animals have a proven effect on people's wellbeing, and studies have demonstrated that they can improve physical and mental wellbeing through engagement with animals. We are looking for collaborative projects that can demonstrate innovative ways of using animals to improve people's lives.

*** We still accept applications for projects that do not meet one of the above funding priorities. As long as your project meets the general Dream Fund criteria your project will still be eligible to apply.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Dream Fund 2018 has a three stage application process:

Stage 1

The stage 1 application process is very simple and involves completing a one page online application form that can be accessed at www.postcodedreamtrust.org.uk. The main information to be provided on the form is a summary describing the project being applied for. Stage 1 opens for applications on **Friday 14th July** and closes on **Tuesday 22nd August at 5.30 pm**. Applicants will be informed of their progress via e-mail within two weeks of the deadline.

Stage 2

The most impressive, exciting and original projects will then be shortlisted and asked to apply using a detailed online application form. Stage 2 will open for applications on **Thursday 14th September** and close on **Tuesday 31st October at 5.30 pm**.

Access to this form will be available to shortlisted entrants only. The following documentation must be included with each stage 2 application:

- **Constitution/ Articles of Association/ Trust Deeds of all organisations**
- **Most recent annual (audited) accounts**
- **Quotations for expenditure breakdown**
- **Signed Partnership Agreement**

You must provide a signed partnership agreement that shows us how all organisations applying will work together, who will be the lead organisation, and how the funds will be managed. This must be signed by a representative from each organisation to demonstrate that you will all comply with the terms of the funding, and that the lead organisation will be responsible for managing the funds.

Stage 3

Stage 2 applicants will then be shortlisted again and the very best entries will be asked to attend our offices in Edinburgh to give a formal presentation on their project to the Dream Fund judges. The presentations are scheduled for Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December. If you are shortlisted to stage 2 please reserve these dates in your diary. The winning projects will then be announced in January 2018.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Stage 1 - Innovation Toolkit

The Dream Fund Innovation Toolkit has been designed to help you develop original and innovative projects and contains tools that can be used to:

- Identify the problem you want to solve
- Create truly collaborative partnerships
- Understand your audience and their needs
- Develop and build ideas

Each stage of the toolkit contains a number of practical innovation tools to help you think more creatively and effectively. The Toolkit is available here: <http://www.postcodedreamtrust.org.uk/Dream-Fund-Innovation-Toolkit>. You are also welcome to contact the Dream Fund Helpdesk to discuss any potential application.

Stage 2 - Innovation Workshops

Projects shortlisted to Stage 2 will be provided with support at an innovation workshop, delivered by specialist consultants Good Innovation, which has been designed to develop the effectiveness of the partnerships and make their projects more impactful and original. After attendance at the workshop applicants will also be provided with free one-to-one support to help develop their Dream Fund projects further. The workshops will be held in London on the afternoon of the following dates:

- Wed 27th Sep
- Thu 28th Sep

Applicants will be eligible to claim travel expenses to and from the workshops.

Stage 3 - Presentation Coaching

Stage 3 applicants that are invited to present on their projects to the Dream Fund judges will be offered support in the form of a day-long presentation coaching session. Applicants will be provided with support from specialist consultants to develop, tailor and rehearse their presentation to give them the best chance of being successful and impressing the Dream Fund judges. Expenses for travel can be claimed to and from the presentation coaching session.

WHAT WE WILL FUND

- All applications must come from at least two organisations who have collaborated together to develop the project. One of these **MUST** be a registered charity, and the other can be a charity, community or voluntary group, or community interest company.
- All ideas must be innovative and original, and show a clear charitable purpose.
- All projects must have been developed to a point where they are ready to execute within 4 weeks of receiving notification of a successful application. Successful applicants will be informed at the end of January.
- Projects that show visible results after 12 months.
- Applications for part-funding are accepted.
- All applications must come from organisations based in Scotland, England or Wales for projects to be run in one or more of these regions.
- Universities and further education institutions are eligible to apply as partner organisations provided they are registered charities.
- General running costs including ongoing staff costs, utility bills, council tax, rent and insurance etc. that are directly linked with the project are eligible for funding, costs relating to PR and communications and capital costs are eligible for funding.
- Organisations who have previously applied for or received funding from Postcode Dream Trust are eligible to apply (as long as they have collaborated with at least one other organisation, and adhered to all funding requirements).

WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND

- Applications will not be accepted from single organisations, businesses or where the lead organisation is not a registered charity.
- We will not accept applications from city councils, local authorities or government/statutory bodies.
- Organisations are not able to submit more than one application, either as a lead or partner.
- Organisations that have multiple branches, e.g. different branches in Scotland and England, are only able to submit one application on behalf of their overall organisation.
- Projects that run for longer than 24 months (i.e. all funds must be spent within 24 months but we expect there to be a long term legacy once the project ends).
- Applications from outside Scotland, England and Wales.
- Applications where the lead partner has an income that is less than two times the total amount that is being applied for as evidenced in their latest audited annual accounts.
- Applications requesting less than £500,000.
- Applications from schools.
- Applications from individuals, projects or bodies that distribute funds to individuals.
- Organisations that have previously been funded by Postcode Dream Trust and that did not comply with all the funding requirements in full.
- Charities that appear to have excessive unrestricted or free reserves. If you feel your reserves need explaining, please do so on your application form.
- Routine building development or refurbishment projects.
- Projects that are a continuation of previous work or involve a replication of services.
- Projects involving medical research or end of life care.
- Current recipients of funding from the Dream Fund are not eligible to apply, this includes partner organisations.

Any questions?

Please refer to the FAQs on the website. If your query is still unanswered, please contact the Dream Fund Helpdesk on 0131 603 8611 or email info@postcodedreamtrust.org.uk

Thank you and good luck!