

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 2017 will offer a total award fund of **£2,500,000** for charitable organisations to deliver their 'dream' project in one or more areas in Great Britain in 2017-2019.
- ❖ 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 who enters into a contractual relationship with the Trust in order to deliver the collaborative project. The main grant contact must be with this organisation.
- ❖ The other partners can be charities, voluntary groups, community interest companies, universities or other not-for-profit organisations.
- ❖ 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 THEMES

We are accepting applications that meet one of the following five funding themes:

- **Early child development**

The early years of life are crucial not only for individual health and physical development, but also for cognitive and social-emotional development. During the early years of childhood the brain and central nervous system rapidly develop and the external environment can have a significant impact on the development of a child's intelligence, personality, social behaviour, and capacity to learn and nurture oneself as an adult. Early child development contains a focus on cognitive, social, emotional skills, speech language and motor skills.

Increasing evidence also demonstrates that successful early child development means more children engaging at school, improved mental health and fewer young people becoming involved in crime and antisocial behaviour. Applications to this category should focus on children of 5 years and below.

Dream Fund 2017 is looking for innovative and impactful early child development projects that can demonstrate how they will improve the life chances of children born into the most disadvantaged communities.

- **Helping refugees in our community**

The refugee crisis is one of the foremost challenges of our time as millions of people, displaced due to civil wars in the Middle East and North Africa, have fled their countries to seek refuge and humanitarian assistance abroad. Conflict in far-away countries has resulted in the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War. The crisis has also highlighted the need for effective interventions from charitable organisations to deal with the challenge of successfully integrating large numbers of new arrivals into society.

Dream Fund 2017 is looking for applications for projects that provide impactful and practical solutions to the challenge of successfully integrating refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in Great Britain. Successful projects will demonstrate an appreciation of the complex cultural challenges of social integration, challenge intolerant attitudes and provide a plan to maintain a cohesive society while managing the deep social change that mass migration can precipitate.

- **Conserving our marine environment**

One of the great environmental challenges of the 21st century will be tackling the level of waste and pollution within the world's oceans, of which the majority is made up of plastics. This is a huge issue not just for the ocean's ecosystem but also for human health as tiny particles of plastic work their way into the food chain. Research indicates that there are over 150 million tonnes of plastic waste in our oceans today and unless action is taken there may be more plastic than fish in the ocean, by weight, by 2050. In addition, up to half of all waste found on island beaches is constituted of plastic.

Dream Fund 2017 is looking for original and impactful projects in the area of marine conservation. Successful projects will demonstrate an appreciation of the marine environment to our social, mental and economic wellbeing and have the capacity to engage consumers, small businesses and corporates in addressing this environmental challenge. Projects that are evidenced and backed up by research will stand the highest chance of being successful.

- **Reconnecting with the natural world**

Ensuring that people are engaged with the natural world is essential to safeguarding its future. 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. Dream Fund 2017 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.

- **Engaging people with arts, culture and heritage**

Dream fund 2017 is looking for projects that can inspire a genuine interest and commitment to the heritage and cultural sector amongst diverse sections of society. Engagement and participation in arts, culture and heritage can strengthen communities, bring people together and remove social barriers. Access to the arts, culture and heritage has also been demonstrated to boost aspiration, quality of life and self-esteem. For instance, access to cultural activities can often inspire people to seek further learning opportunities and study for qualifications, and this sometimes leads to finding work. Successful projects will be able to engage new and 'hard to reach' audiences with arts, heritage and culture and will also be able to demonstrate how access to culture can result in wider benefits to individuals and society.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Dream Fund 2017 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 **Monday 15th August** and closes on **Sunday 25th September at 5.30 pm** (we have extended the deadline by 10 days). Applicants will be informed of their progress via e-mail within 1 week 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 **Saturday 1st October** and close on **Sunday 30th 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 5th and Tuesday 6th December. If you are shortlisted to stage 2 please reserve these dates in your diary. The winning projects will then be announced in January 2017.

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.
- Projects must be able to 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.
- 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.

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!