

Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF)

Questions and answers from webinar held on 14 May 2020

Eligibility

Q. Would an organisation need to be registered as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) as the implementing partner, or would it be possible to be registered as a community-based organisation (CBO)?

A. To be eligible you must be registered in the UK. Either you or your implementing partner must also be registered in the country of implementation.

Q. Would you consider any charity too small to work with?

A. There is no lower eligibility limit, however your technical and financial capacity to manage the funds requested will be considered as part of the review process.

Q. Is the annual income of the implementing partner taken into consideration?

A. No, although it is expected that the spirit of the fund (small charities) is considered. In the proposal you should demonstrate the rationale for choosing your implementing partners.

Q. What are British grassroots organisations?

A. The Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF) is open to charities registered in the UK with an average annual income under £250,000 per annum over the last three years.

Q. Does the charity need to be a member of the [Fundraising Regulator](#)?

A. It is not a specific requirement to be registered with the Fundraising Regulator, although we would recommend it if you are engaged in fundraising activities.

Q. We are merged with a larger charity and have an independent Board of Trustees. Are you able to share any information about what else you consider when looking at whether we are eligible?

A. If your organisation is part of a larger charity, you will need to show significant autonomy. This means your organisation must be registered in the UK and have its own UK-specific constitution. It must also have an independent board of trustees, meaning the board must be locally appointed, and free and able to make independent decisions on all strategic and operational issues.

Q. Are any African countries excluded from the grant?

A. The list of eligible countries is available [on the website](#). This is comprised of the lowest 50 countries in the Human Development Index and countries that the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) considers to be of moderate or high fragility. Somalia and Afghanistan are not eligible countries for Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF) grants.

Q. Can non-profit, Companies of Community interests apply?

A. Yes. All registered not-for-profit organisations registered in the UK with an average annual income under £250,000 are eligible.

Q. We are a new organisation and so far, only have one year's set of accounts. Can we apply? Is the three-year accounts requirement strictly applied?

A. If you have been in operation for less than three years you are eligible to apply and your organisational income will be judged on the number of years of operation. Please submit all audited accounts you have available. If you have less than three years of audited accounts, you can also submit management or draft accounts for the current year.

Due Diligence and finance

Q. What does the Financial Management Assessment entail?

A. The due diligence process will assess your organisation's capacity to deliver a UK aid grant by conducting a financial management assessment (FMA). FMAs are conducted by experienced members of the fiduciary risk team at UK Aid Direct and take place before a grant is approved and any funds are released. You will be asked to complete and return a self-assessment questionnaire, alongside supporting documentation like key policies and processes. The questionnaire explores your organisation's governance and internal control, ability to deliver, financial stability, and management of downstream delivery partners.

Q. Can we charge indirect costs as a flat %?

A. To calculate the proportion of indirect costs chargeable on the project, you can use the Non-Project Attributable Costs (NPAC) formulas in the budget template. There is no obligation to complete NPAC at this stage and if you are successful in your application, a member of the fiduciary risk team will help you to complete this. Further guidance on NPAC can be found in the [budget template](#).

Project implementation and management

Q. What is the anticipated start period for this project?

A. We expect to inform applicants of the outcome of their application in December 2020. The due diligence and grant set-up process will begin at this point and the duration of this will vary for each project.

Q. Please can you define in more detail the kind of projects we can apply for?

A. Projects that respond to the [Global Goals](#) (opens in a new window) will be considered eligible and successful applicants will need to demonstrate how the project will address the UK's Department for International Development's (DFID's) wider strategic objectives and the goals of UK Aid Direct.

Q. Is it necessary to have an implementing partner?

A. Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF) applicants are strongly encouraged to work with downstream implementing partners. If you are not doing so you will need to explain the rationale for this in your application.

Q. If we are working with an established implementing partner, do we still have to be established in-country?

A. You do not have to be registered in the implementing country if your partner organisation already is.

Q. Is it ok if our implementing partners are registered both in the UK and in the intended country of project?

A. Implementing partners do not need to be registered in the UK but it is acceptable provided they are also registered in your implementation country.

Application process**Q. The application process is very thorough and will require significant time to complete. What percentage of applications are likely to be successful?**

A. 17% of applications were successful the first four rounds of this funding type and we expect this percentage to be similar for this round.

Q. If we submit before the 24 September 2020, will you review earlier so that if successful our project commences before the deadline?

A. All applications will be reviewed following the deadline on 24 September 2020.

Q. Do you give feedback if we were not successful in terms of lessons learnt for the next application round?

A. Yes. All applicants will receive feedback on their proposal.