

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FUND: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Community Engagement Fund?

The Community Engagement Fund provides funding to charities, community organisations and/or grassroots organisations to engage communities and raise awareness of priority Home Office policies. The fund is offered by the Home Office.

The purpose of the Community Engagement Fund 2025-26 is to:

- a. Raise awareness of and address any misinformation about the Windrush Compensation Scheme and Windrush Documentation Scheme with a focus on continuing to support communities from the Windrush generation. Including non-Caribbean communities such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ghana and India nationalities and encourage them to apply to these Schemes.
- b. Build on the insights and learning taken from our existing work on Windrush (e.g. the Windrush Community Fund and Windrush national communications campaigns) to understand:
 - I. why individuals are not applying for the Windrush Compensation Scheme and/or the Windrush Scheme (Documentation); and
 - II. how to encourage eligible individuals to apply to these Schemes.

The Guidance for Applicants provides all the information you need to know to submit an application.

2. What type of projects / events will you fund?

Examples of how funding could be used include but are not limited to:

- Holding events, for example cost of venue, refreshments, and other related costs.
- Creating and sharing marketing materials, like leaflets and posters.
- Running communications campaigns both in person and online.
- Accessing and using communication channels, for example social media or local radio.
- Getting support from corporate partners, public figures, or advocates.

3. How do I apply?

- The 2025/2026 Community Engagement Fund Scheme is being managed via the Government Grants Management Function (GGMF) online application platform 'Find a Grant' [Home - Find a grant \(find-government-grants.service.gov.uk\)](https://find-a-grant.service.gov.uk)
- Find a Grant is a single place for individuals and organisations to find and apply to general government grants. It has been delivered by the GGMF, Cabinet Office, in partnership with DCMS, Defra, DBT and MoJ.
- Find a Grant has been designed to:
 - publicise grants in one place with equal and fair access for all.
 - enable the finding of government grants by browsing, searching and filtering.
 - offer applicants opt-in notifications for individual grants, customised saved searches, or general service updates when new grants are added every week.
- To apply, you will need to register an interest in the 2025/2026 Community Engagement Fund via the 'Find A Grant' advert providing the information as requested.
- The application pack includes an online Application Form, Guidance for Applicants and a 2025/26 Factsheet as well as some additional background and supporting information.

Your completed Application must be submitted by 4pm Wednesday 28th May 2025.

4. I applied for the previous Fund 2023-24, can I reuse my previous application for this year?

- The 2025/2026 Community Engagement Fund Scheme is being managed via an online application process using the Grants Management Function [Home - Find a grant \(find-government-grants.service.gov.uk\)](https://find-a-grant.service.gov.uk)
- We encourage all applicants to read the 'Guidance for Applicants' to support them in completing the new online Application, as the Guidance and Application Forms have been updated with additional detail.

- Organisations may decide to use previous detail to complete the online Application Form if it they consider that it meets the relevant requirements, however this is entirely at the applicant's discretion.

5. I've looked at the forms (guidance and application), why have these changed / been updated with more detail?

- The application process for this grant scheme has been developed to reflect latest commercial best practice in accordance with Cabinet Office Grant Functional Standards, with the aim of driving consistency in the design, development, and administration of schemes across the government grant's function, and ensuring funding provides value for money through high-quality delivery.
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- Find a Grant has been designed to:
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 - enable the finding of government grants by browsing, searching, and filtering.
 - offer applicants opt-in notifications for individual grants, customised saved searches, or general service updates when new grants are added every week.

6. When is the deadline for applications and when will I find out if my application has been successful?

- The Community Engagement Fund is **open for applications from Wednesday 23rd April 2025 and closes at 4pm on Wednesday 28th May 2025.**
- The applications will be assessed online against a published set of criteria found in the Guidance for Applicants. Assessments will be made by the Windrush Engagement Team in the Home Office, who will inform all applicants of the final decision. Successful applicants will be contacted by the Home Office with a

grant offer letter and terms and conditions of the grant. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified.

7. How much funding is available and how much can I apply for?

- The Community Engagement Fund 2025-26 is for a total of £150,000.
- The minimum amount of funding each organisation can apply for is £5,000 and the maximum amount of funding you can apply for is £10,000.
- Applicants are able to request up to 25% of the full funding amount (initial payment) for set up costs.

8. What if the value of my project value exceeds £10,000?

- Projects may have a total value above £10,000. However, the total amount of funding provided by the Home Office will not exceed £10,000.
- Applications proposing projects of a value higher than £10,000 will need to demonstrate where their additional source of funding will come from. Evidence of this will be required in the online Application Form.

9. How long do we have to deliver activities?

- This fund is best suited to support short and easy-to-deliver projects, rather than a programme of work, as all allocated funds need to be spent within the financial year, **by 31st March 2026**.
- The time taken to deliver your projects starts from the date you receive the funding.
- We would like to encourage projects to start planning and preparing for activities as soon as they receive their notification that they are successful in receiving the funding. This will allow you to deliver as many activities as possible before the end of March 2026.

10. Will the Home Office still be holding engagement events?

- Engagement and outreach have been a core part of our response to the Windrush issue since the Windrush Taskforce (now known as the Windrush Help Team) was established in April 2018 to help people secure the

documentation they need to evidence their lawful status and to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

- We continue to hold regular dialogue with stakeholders and recognise the importance of trusted stakeholders holding engagement activities with communities on the Home Office's behalf, to really plug any further gaps.

11. Will the Home Office be holding promotional events for potential applicants?

- Yes, the Windrush Engagement Team will hold information sessions which will inform and support those who are interested in applying for the Community Engagement Fund.
- Information sessions will be held for community and grassroots organisations who are interested to learn more about the Fund and how to apply. These virtual sessions will be held on **MS Teams on Thursday 1st May from 2pm-3.30pm** and **Tuesday 6th May from 11am-12.30pm**. **Further guidance on how to apply to attend one of these sessions and what information to provide can be found in the Find a Grant opportunity and in the 'Guidance to Applicants'.**
- Anyone interested in joining an information session should email:
CommunityEngagementFundCompetition@homeoffice.gov.uk
 - at least 48hrs (working) in advance of the relevant session,
 - confirming which session, you wish to attend
 - the names of 2 attendees (maximum)
 - organisation name

You will then be issued with access details for the relevant session.

- The presentation will be made available to any organisation which has expressed an interest in the Fund via the online application process.

12. When will funding be received?

- Successful applicants will receive grant terms and conditions and the schedule of payments after the competition has been completed. An initial payment to cover set up costs (up to 25% of the awarded funding). Subsequent payments will be made as per payment schedule.

13. How will project activities be monitored?

- The Windrush Engagement Team will work with all successful applicants to ensure that appropriate monitoring procedures are in place to chart the success of their project. This could include, for example, the number of people your project engaged and the benefits those people received because of your engagement.

14. Can we apply for funding to cover the general running costs of our organisation?

- Funding can only be used to cover costs related to project delivery. It may not be used to cover general day to day costs of running your organisation, including core running costs and salaries for existing permanent staff (unless associated with the Community Engagement Fund project).

15. Is this funding only available for organisations and activities in England?

- The Community Engagement Fund is open for applications from community and grassroots organisations based in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The funding can be used for activities across the UK.

16. How will applications be assessed?

- Applications will be assessed by the Windrush Engagement Team in the Home Office against the published criteria specified in the Guidance for Applicants.

17. My organisation does not work directly with groups of non-Caribbean heritage, are we still eligible to apply?

- Yes. We recognise that the injustices faced by the Windrush generation are not limited to those of Caribbean heritage, and some people who came to the UK from across the Commonwealth – and beyond – may have experienced similar difficulties. That is why the Windrush Compensation Scheme and Windrush Scheme (documentation) are not limited to those individuals who came to the UK from the Caribbean.
- We encourage applications from a range of eligible groups who wish to raise awareness of and promote the Windrush Scheme (documentation) and the

Windrush Compensation Scheme to communities including those wider than the Caribbean.

- Further information on the eligibility criteria for the Windrush Scheme (documentation) and Windrush Compensation Scheme can be obtained from <https://windrush.campaign.gov.uk/>

18. I am an individual without links to a community group or grassroots organisation – can I apply?

- The Community Engagement Fund is open to community organisations and grassroots organisations. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept applications from individuals. If as an individual you are interested in making an application, we recommend that you join a group/organisation to meet the eligibility criteria.

19. Are local authorities eligible to apply?

- The Community Engagement Fund is open for community organisations and grassroots organisations. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept applications from local authorities. However, we welcome applications from community and grassroots organisations who have experience of working with local authorities to deliver community-based projects. If this applies to you, please do provide that information in your application.

20. How will you use my data?

- All data will be handled in accordance with GDPR regulations. Your data will not be shared with anyone else in the Home Office without your consent.

[Home Office GDPR Privacy Note](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-community-fund-privacy-notice>

21. Is there a limit on the number of organisations that can be involved in a consortium bid (group of organisations)?

- There is no limit on the number of organisations that can be involved in a consortium bid. However, there is a maximum limit on the amount a bid can request which is £10,000.

- The lead organisation for a consortium bid must be a charity, community group or grassroots organisation and the lead organisation must make the application.

22. Are we allowed to produce our own marketing material for the raising awareness events both online and for personal distribution e.g., leaflets?

- Yes, you are free to produce your own materials, however you are required to display the 'Funded by UK Government' Branding. You must share your drafts with the Home Office so we can provide advice or clarification on any policy or eligibility points so that only accurate information is shared with the public.
- The government requires that approved 'Funded by UK Government' Branding is used under certain conditions to help the citizen quickly identify government-backed work. 'Funded by UK Government' Branding is to be used by third party organisations in receipt of UK government funds, in line with an accompanying branding manual, which provides information about how logos should be used in a consistent way, to provide effective and efficient communications.

https://gcs.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Branding_Funded_By_UKG-.pdf.

23. Will late applications be considered?

- The Home Office reserves the right to reject any late applications. Completed online applications must be received by **4pm on Wednesday 28th May 2025**. The Home Office will initially examine each online application for compliance and completeness and may seek clarification where necessary. Prior to detailed examination, the Home Office will determine whether an application is complete and substantially fulfils the conditions stated in the Guidance for Applicants.
- If during this stage of the assessment it is apparent that requested information is missing from the Applicant's response due to genuine error, the Home Office may take the decision to allow the late submission of the required information. If this is the case, the Applicant will be advised of the missing information (from the specific Application), and arrangements made for their late submission, but this courtesy will be strictly time bound (e.g., to be submitted within 2 hours) in order to maintain a level playing field.

24. Can I ask questions about the application process?

Applicants may seek clarification on aspects of the Application Form. **The deadline to submit clarification questions to the Home Office is 9am on Wednesday 21st May 2025 via email to:**

CommunityEngagementFundCompetition@homeoffice.gov.uk.

- The Home Office may publish / disseminate clarification questions during the bid opening period and the complete and final list of clarification questions responses will be published on the supporting documentation tab on the online Find a Grant portal by **5pm on Wednesday 21st May 2025**. Please refer to the Guidance for Applicants for further information.

25. How have the figures (£150k for this fund for example), been determined?

- The £500,000 Windrush Community Fund announced in 2020 allowed grassroots organisations to deliver up to 12 months of projects to promote and raise awareness of the Windrush Scheme (documentation), the Windrush Compensation Scheme or both.
- This Community Engagement Fund of £150,000 2023/24 was launched to bridge any further gaps in understanding eligibility, especially for those who are from non-Caribbean background.
- A further Community Engagement Fund of £150,000 for 2025/26 has been launched to continue to build on the previous year's Community Engagement Fund, to understand eligibility, especially for those who are from non-Caribbean background. The projects need to be delivered by 31st March 2026.
- **What is the difference between the Windrush Community Fund, Community Engagement Fund, the Windrush Scheme (documentation) and the Windrush Compensation Scheme?**
- The Windrush Community Fund was a £500,000 fund to enable community, grassroots and charitable organisations to promote and increase awareness of the Windrush Scheme (documentation) and Windrush Compensation Scheme.

- The Community Engagement Fund (CEF) is a £150,000 grant fund to support grassroots and community groups to engage communities and raise awareness of priority Home Office policy areas and the support available. The fund is offered by the Home Office. Some nationality groups, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ghana and India, despite possibly having been impacted, may not be coming forward for compensation to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.
- The [Windrush Scheme \(documentation\) \(https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk) was launched in May 2018 to help people who were not able to prove their right to live and work in the UK, obtain a document to prove their lawful status.
- The [Windrush Compensation Scheme \(https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme) was launched in April 2019 to ensure that members of the Windrush generation and their families are properly compensated for the losses and impacts they have suffered, as a result of not being able to demonstrate their lawful status.

26. What support is available for the Windrush Compensation Scheme applicants?

- The Windrush Compensation Scheme claimant assistance provider provides free, independent advice and support to those making a compensation claim.
- The Home Office has paid for an independent claimant assistance provider who can help individuals to establish if they are eligible and then apply to the Windrush Compensation Scheme for free. Their name is **‘We are Group’**. Their freephone number is: 0808 196 8496.
- We Are Group I we will help you fill out your application to ensure you have all the paperwork needed, ensuring no information will be missed, and everything is correct before your application is submitted.
- Alternatively, you may check your eligibility at: [gov.uk/WindrushHelpTeam](https://windrush.campaign.gov.uk/) (https://windrush.campaign.gov.uk/)

27. Can we run immigration services or advisory services for individuals impacted by Windrush who are applying to the Windrush Schemes?

- The Home Office has paid for an independent claimant assistance provider who can help individuals to establish if they are eligible and then apply to the Windrush Compensation Scheme for free. Their name is 'We are Group'. Their freephone number is: 0808 196 8496.
- We Are Group we will help individuals to fill out their application to ensure they have all the paperwork needed, ensuring no information will be missed, and everything is correct before their application is submitted.
- Alternatively, individuals may check their eligibility at:
gov.uk/WindrushHelpTeam (<https://windrush.campaign.gov.uk/>)
- Organisations' project proposal must clearly show how they will work to avoid a conflict of interest e.g., if they have immigration services they can't refer Community Engagement Fund beneficiaries only to their own service - they must give them a list of all proper immigration advice services that the beneficiary can choose from.

28. Do the Windrush Schemes also apply to those from outside the Caribbean?

- Yes. If someone is settled in the UK but does not have a document to prove it, they may be eligible to apply to the 'Windrush Schemes'.
- Individuals may be able to apply for a document to prove they can live and work in the UK if one of the following is true:
 - a. you came to the UK from a Commonwealth country before 1973;
 - b. your parents came to the UK from a Commonwealth country before 1973;
 or
 - c. you came to the UK from any country before 31 December 1988 and are now settled here. [Windrush Scheme: get a document showing your right to be in the UK](https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk) (<https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk>)

29. Can family members be compensated on behalf of someone who passes away before their application is completed?

- The Scheme permits claims to be made by the estate of a deceased person who would have met one of the eligibility criteria as the primary claimant. To obtain an award you must demonstrate that the deceased person met the

eligibility criteria and that they personally experienced a direct loss or impact because of their difficulties demonstrating their lawful right to stay in the United Kingdom. To make a claim, you should use the Deceased Estate Claim Form.

[Windrush Compensation Scheme: claim forms and guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-claim-forms-and-guidance) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-claim-forms-and-guidance>)

To see the latest update to the guidance for close family members, see [Windrush Compensation Scheme: full rules - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-claim-forms-and-guidance)

30. I understand the Home Office has lost paperwork associated with individuals' entry into the UK pre-1980s. How will the Home Office validate or prove status and what advice would you give applicants here?

- The Windrush Help Team are available to help guide individuals through the process of confirming their status. They can be contacted at: [gov.uk/WindrushHelpTeam \(https://windrush.campaign.gov.uk/\)](https://windrush.campaign.gov.uk/).
- We understand that individuals will often not have retained documents over several decades. The Windrush Help Team will work with individuals to build up a profile of their arrival and time spent in the UK using the information that is available. Documents that are helpful to the Home Office in doing this can include passports, travel documents, birth certificates, school records, National Insurance number and household bills. The Team will also work with other Government departments to obtain relevant data that helps to fill in the details of an individual's life in the UK.

31. Why is there an upper limit for the Compensation Scheme? Does it take into account the impact in relation to a pension?

- There is no cap or limit on the amount of compensation an individual can receive.
- Under the loss of access to employment category, individuals will be compensated for the full period they were unable to access employment because they could not demonstrate their lawful status.
- Through their employment awards, individuals will recuperate the contributions they would have made into an occupational pension scheme at the time.

32. Can you work with people/victims also stuck overseas?

- The Windrush Help Team can and do work to support individuals that are currently overseas. Anyone who is currently overseas and believes that they may be eligible for support can contact the Windrush Help Team by email at commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gov.uk and request a phone call back.
- Individuals may still apply for documentation of their status under the Windrush Scheme if they are overseas. The Windrush Help Team can guide anyone who believes they may be eligible through this process.

33. How long does the Home Office take to process an application for citizenship or compensation?

- The Windrush Help Team aims to complete the decision-making process within two weeks of all the evidence being gathered. Usually this will be from the point that biometrics are taken, although in some cases further evidence is supplied by the applicant or other sources after this point. Therefore, some decisions will fall outside these timescales.
- For applications made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme, this is more difficult to give a definitive timescale due to the complexity of the cases. However, the Home Office are working to reduce the time to offer.

34. What will happen to any unspent Grant Funding at the end of the Grant period?

- Organisations will be required to evidence their spend against monies allocated and to reimburse any unspent monies to the department. Any overspend will not be covered by the Fund, unless in exceptional and previously authorised circumstances. All allocated funds need to be spent within the financial year, by 31st March 2026.

Note: We will update this document as required.