



CONNECT FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can funding be carried across rounds or Financial Years?

A: Funding must be fully drawn down during the round for which it has been allocated and cannot be carried across.

Q: Is it possible for funding to be provided before I begin the project?

A: If your project is under £10,000, you are eligible to request funding in advance of beginning the project. You will need to demonstrate you have delivered agreed milestones and **must** return any underspend within 30 days of project completion. If you have requested over £10,000 funding, a payment schedule will be agreed.

Q: If successful in August, does that mean funding can be drawn down until the following August?

A: Funding must be fully drawn down during the round for which it has been allocated and cannot be carried across. If you are successful in August 2025, funding must be used by April 2026 and cannot be carried across into round 2 starting May 2026.

Q: If unsuccessful, are applicants entitled to reapply?

A: Yes, if unsuccessful, applicants may reapply. Organisations are allowed to have one 'live' application/project at a time. That means that applicants must await a decision on their current application before submitting a further application.



Q: Will you provide feedback for unsuccessful applicants?

A: We are actively considering whether feedback can be provided for applicants within the resource available for and without adverse impact on the effective administration of the scheme.

Q: Can the same organisation fund numerous projects at the same time?

A: No, we will fund one project at a time, per round. Organisations can apply for funding in both Round 1 and Round 2, which can be either for the same project as the previous round or a different project.

Q: If our project is successful, can we bid to run it again during Round 2?

A: Yes, that would be permitted.

Q: I've already built up a relationship with my counterparts in GB. Can I still apply to strengthen that relationship?

A: Yes, that would be permitted.

Q: Does the Connect Fund support one off activities or longer term projects?

A: The Connect Fund supports both! You should be mindful of the dates that rounds are open when submitting applications. Funding must be drawn down during that period and cannot be carried across.



Q: Is there an age restriction on applications, can we work with children?

A: There is no age restriction. Applicants working with children, young people or vulnerable adults will, of course, need to have a safeguarding policy in place explaining how they'll be safe.

Q: Would study visits be appropriate under the Connect Fund?

A: If your application meets the grant's objectives, it will be considered.

Q: What are the dates for the two initial rounds?

A: Round 1 will run from 12 June 2025 to 30 April 2026, with applications being accepted from 10 August; Round 2 will run from 1 May 2026 to 31 March 2027.

Q: How much detail are we expected to provide on the project plan?

A: You should use the template provided [here](#).

Q: Is it possible for eligible organisations to partner up with for-profit partners/individuals?

A: For-profit individuals/organisations cannot be partners in an application. Applicants can, however, include in their application their intention to hire for-profit individuals/organisations to support the delivery of their one-off activity or longer-term project. Details should be provided on the purpose for hiring for-profit individuals/organisations in the Activity Outline section of the application, with associated costs noted in the Resourcing and Costs section.



Q: Can application partners be identified in multiple applications at one time?

A: Yes, provided they have the capacity to deliver on their role.

Q: Can partners be in receipt of other funding?

A: Yes, that is acceptable.

Q: Is a partner always required?

Northern Ireland organisations can apply individually. Organisations applying from GB must always have a partner organisation in Northern Ireland.

Q: Who holds the budget?

A: Payment will only be made to the lead organisation, who is responsible for managing appropriately with partners.

Q: Can social enterprises apply?

A: Yes, social enterprises can apply.

Q: If oversubscribed and round 1 closes early, could round 2 be brought forward?

A: Round 2 will open 1 May 2026, regardless of when round 1 closed.



Q: Do you provide a function where we can pitch ideas ahead of applying?

A: Currently, we do not provide this function. If there is considerable appetite, we will consider introducing an offer.

Q: Will you carry across underspend from Round 1 to Round 2?

A: This can be considered closer to the time if required.

Q: We want to host a residential. What is your travel policy?

A: We have not set out travel costs for all possible projects. You should take the stipulated accommodation subsistence allowances and translate them across into residential costs, noting the difference in costs arising for residentials in comparison with overnight stays. For example, you should detail the additional amenities/activities provided by the residential provider (beyond accommodation and subsistence), outlining why these amenities/activities are necessary and how they contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Connect Fund objectives.

Q: If I score over 30 overall, but under a 4 on value for money, will I have the opportunity to re-submit the requested templates or do I need to put in a new application?

A: If you scored above a 30 but under 4 on value for money, you will have the opportunity to resubmit your project plan and budget template without being required to formally submit a new application on findagrant, provided the contents of the proposal do not change.



Q: I'm trying to resubmit an application, after being unsuccessful, but it's not working. What should I do?

A: You are eligible to reapply for funding in the same round if you were unsuccessful. You will, however, need to use a different email address to sign up to findagrants. We are currently working through with engineers to resolve this. If you are unable to use a different email, please reach out to us on ggms_connectfund_nio@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

Q. My application has an end date of April 31st, but the new grant end date is March 31st. Will my application automatically fail?

A: No, your application will not automatically fail. We understand that the end date has been adjusted to align with the Financial Year, which may affect some applications submitted before August. We will work with any applicants who are in this situation.

Q: I have another question, who do I reach out to?

A: If you require any further information for your application please contact ggms_connectfund_nio@cabinetoffice.gov.uk