GRANT SCHEME

DEBT ADVICE MODERNISATION FUND 2024/25

Scoring Methodology & Assessment Approach

1. APPLICATION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 MaPS' vision is 'Everyone making the most of their money and pensions'. MaPS is an arm's-length-body, sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, with a joint commitment to ensuring that people throughout the UK have guidance and access to the information they need to make effective financial decisions over their lifetime. MaPS is funded by levies on both the financial Services industry and pension schemes.

1.1.2 MaPS provides people in England with information and advice on debt and are the biggest funder of free-to-client debt advice.

1.1.3 MaPS has a funding pot of £500,000 to support not-for-profit debt advice organisations in enhancing and modernising their services, improving accessibility for vulnerable clients, and implementing improvements that contribute to long-term, sustainable change.

1.1.4 Grants between £10,000 and up to a maximum of £25,000 will be available to eligible organisations.

1.1.5 The fund is designed to help organisations make improvements in four key areas: enhancing service delivery, improving accessibility for vulnerable clients, driving sustainable, long-term change, and fostering innovation.

1.1.6 Projects must be completed by 31st March 2025.

1.1.7 This fund is ideal for organisations seeking to modernise their debt advice services and create impactful improvements for its organisation and clients.

1.2 Grant Scheme Objectives

1.2.1 The grant will fund projects that establish the systems, tools or processes necessary for the modernisation of debt advice services. The objectives of the grant fund are:

1.2.2 Enhance service delivery: Support organisations in modernising their debt advice services through the adoption of new tools, technologies, and processes, improving efficiency and effectiveness.

1.2.3 Improve accessibility: Increase the accessibility of debt advice services by implementing solutions that make it easier for clients to access support, such as digital platforms, remote services or improved physical accessibility.

1.2.4 Drive sustainable change: Encourage lasting improvements in service provision that continue beyond the funding period, ensuring the long-term impact of the projects.

1.2.5 Foster innovation: Promote innovative approaches to debt advice that respond to evolving client needs and sector challenges.

1.2.6 These objectives aim to create a more efficient, client-centered debt advice sector capable of meeting current and future demands.

1.3 Process

1.3.1 Applications will open on **Monday 28th October 2024** and close on Friday 22nd November 2024, midday (4 weeks).

1.3.2 Only one application per organisation can be made. The minimum amount an organisation can apply for will be £10,000 and the maximum amount £25,000.

1.3.3 Organisations will need to apply online via: Find a Grant located at https://www.find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/

1.3.4 Documents associated with this application include the:
- Scoring Methodology and Assessment Approach (this document)
- Delivery Plan MS Excel Template (part of application)
- Financial Methodology – Budget Management Tool MS Excel Template (part of application)

1.3.5 Applications must be submitted online by **Friday 22nd November 2024, 12pm** midday via Find a Grant.

1.3.6 Please note that this funding may be subject to change and withdrawal at any point during the competition window and application assessment process, up to decisions being communicated to applicants. This includes the right to close the competition prior to the advertised date if the fund appears to be over-subscribed.

1.3.7 If successful, applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with MaPS. The terms of this agreement will be non-negotiable.

2. ASSESSMENT

2.1 Evaluation Criteria

2.1.1 MaPS is working in partnership with Cabinet Office Government Grants Managed Service (GGMS) who will manage the Scheme and assess the applications. It is assumed that assessors have no or limited background knowledge of organisations, its aims and what it does.

2.2 STAGE 1 - INITIAL SIFT

2.2.1 GGMS will review the applications to check that the information meets the eligibility requirements by carrying out due diligence checks.

2.2.2 Any organisation assessed as Not Met, will not proceed to Stage 2.

Num.	Eligibility Criteria	Question	Source Checks	Scoring
1	Be Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Authorised	Please provide your six digit Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Firm Reference Number (FRN).	FCA Register - Firm Reference Number (FRN)	Pass or Not Met
2	Directly provides free-to-clients debt advice	Can you please confirm that your organisation provides debt advice to clients free of charge?	Self-certification	Pass or Not Met
3	Demonstrates sound financial status	Please can you provide your organisation's: - Legal name - Type - Registered address - Charity Commission number - Companies House number (if applicable)	Spotlight checks - Enhanced	Pass or Not Met
4	Have turnover of less than £1,500,000	Can you please confirm that your organisation's turnover is less than £1,500,000?	Charity Commission 'income' check - income of £1,499,999 or less	Pass or Not Met
5	Have the capability & capacity to spend funds and complete activities by 31st March 2025	Please confirm you are assured that the proposal being submitted meets the grant funds objectives and that there will be capability and capacity to deliver the project and spend the requested grant fund by 31st March 2025?	Self-certification	Pass or Not Met

MaPS Scoring Methodology & Assessment Approach

6	Be a registered not-for-profit organisation such as a charity or community interest (CICs)	Please can you provide your organisation's Charity Commission number?	Verified via Charity Commission	Pass or Not Met
7	Not submitting in a proposal that is already being funded, to avoid duplicative funding	Can you please confirm that your organisation is not currently, or due to be, in receipt of another funding stream that is committed to fund the proposal being submitted here?	Self-certification	Pass or Not Met
8	Ensure their proposal aligns to the grant objective(s) and is not solely focussed on ongoing operational cost	Complete Application Form, alongside Delivery Plan and Financial Methodology - Budget Tool Template	Verified through their proposal submitted	Pass or Not Met
9	Be located and provide free debt advice services within England only	Please can you provide your organisation's registered address?	Verified through the organisation address	Pass or Not Met

STAGE 2 - INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION OF ELIGIBLE APPLICATION

2.2.3   GGMS will then score eligible Applications according to the approach set out below.

2.3   Evaluation Approach

2.3.1   The table below sets out the criteria by which Applications will be assessed and the weighting of that criteria.

Q.	Assessment Questions	Weighting %	Word Count - up to
1	**Project Relevance / Problem Statement**	**25.0%**	
1.1	Please very briefly describe the project that will be undertaken if you are successful in your application for funding.	N/A	300
1.2	Please describe the problem or challenge your organisation is facing that this project aims to address. How does this problem affect your debt advice services, clients or operations?	12.5%	500

1.3	Please explain how your project aligns with the grant's objective of innovating or modernising debt advice services. What specific aspects of your service delivery will be improved or transformed as a result of this project?	12.5%	500
2	**Deliverability – Capacity**	**20.0%**	
2.1	Please provide an overview of your project management approach and outline the resources available within your organisation that will support the successful completion of this project (e.g. staff, technology, infrastructure). How will these resources be allocated during the project delivery window? Please also note if you have considered any risks as part of the project delivery and how these might be managed.	10.0%	400
2.2	Please complete and upload the Delivery Plan MS Excel Template to illustrate a profile of timelines, milestones, and how you plan to ensure the project remains on track for timely completion (i.e. by 31st March 2025). The template document is available within the 'Supporting Documents' section of the grant advertisement. Please note, successful recipients will be requested to report on progress against their delivery plan and spend (the Delivery Plan should correlate with your Financial Methodology - Budget Management Tool submission)	10.0%	Delivery Plan MS Excel Template Upload
3	**Deliverability – Capability**	**20.0%**	
3.1	Provide details of any similar projects your organisation has completed in the past that demonstrate your ability to deliver projects like the one you are proposing. How did these projects contribute to improving your services or operations?	10.0%	300
3.2	Describe the skills, qualifications, and experience of the team that will be delivering this project. If you are working with partners or external providers, explain their roles and how they will contribute to the project's success.	10.0%	300
4	**Impact**	**35.0%**	
4.1	What are the expected outcomes of your project, and how will they improve the efficiency, effectiveness, or reach of your debt advice services? Please provide specific, measurable indicators of success	20.0%	500
4.2	Describe how your project will create long-lasting benefits for your organisation and the communities you serve. Will the improvements be scalable or replicable in other services or areas?	15.0%	300

			TOTAL	100.0%	3,100
5	**Financial Methodology – Budget Tool**			N/A	
5.1	Please complete and upload the Financial Methodology - Budget Management Tool MS Excel Template to profile expenditure needs. The template document is available within the 'Supporting Documents' section of the grant advertisement. Please note, successful recipients will be requested to report on progress on spend against their delivery plan (the budget forecast should correlate with your delivery plan).			N/A	Financial Methodology - Budget Management Tool MS Excel Template Upload
6	**Data Protection**				
6.1	**Controller Responsibility** Does your organisation have a clear framework in place to ensure that it fulfils its responsibilities as a controller, including the implementation of appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect personal data, and does it provide regular employee training on data protection compliance.			N/A	Self-certification [Pass or Not Met]
6.2	**Data Protection Policies and Procedures** Does your organisation have a documented Data Protection policy in place?			N/A	Self-certification [Pass or Not Met]
6.3	**Does your organisation have established procedures for:** a) Collecting, processing, storage, and disposal of personal data b) Processing data subjects' rights requests c) Personal data incidents and breach, including reporting.			N/A	Self-certification [Pass or Not Met]
6.4	**Lawful Basis & Transparency** Does your organisation have documented processes to ensure that it has a lawful basis for processing personal data and that individuals are provided with clear and easily understandable information about the processing activities, as required by the UK GDPR.			N/A	Self-certification [Pass or Not Met]
6.5	**Accountability and Governance** Does your organisation have a designated Data Protection Officer (DPO) or equivalent responsible for overseeing data protection compliance and acting as a point of contact for the Supervisory Authority (Information Commissioner's Office – ICO)			N/A	Self-certification

7	**Insurance**		
7.1	It is a legal requirement that all companies hold Employer's Liability Insurance of £5m as a minimum. Please confirm that your organisation holds Employer's Liability Insurance.	N/A	Self-certification [Pass or Not Met]
7.2	Does your organisation hold any of the following insurance cover? Please select those which apply: - Public Liability Insurance - Professional Liability Insurance - Product Liability Insurance	N/A	Self-certification

2.3.2 MaPS' financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. If successful, funding requests and budgets must not go beyond the 31st March 2025. Any funds not drawn down by the end of the financial year will become unavailable.

2.3.3 Payments will, by default, be made in arrears milestones based. MaPS only pays in advance by exception upon request.

2.3.4 Applicants must provide a working budget request for their proposed project through the Financial Methodology - Budget Management Tool MS Excel Template provided.

2.3.5 Applications will not be assessed on the amount of funding requested; however, GGMS will make an assessment of the fitness/reasonableness of the funding being requested against the submitted delivery plan and may seek clarification.

2.3.6 When considering populating the Financial Methodology - Budget Management Tool MS Excel Template, please consider the following:
- Profiling budget spend from 2nd January 2025 and before 31st March 2025.
- The Financial Methodology - Budget Management Tool should correlate with the Delivery Plan, e.g. expenditure costs are clearly named, clearly associated with activities stated within the delivery plan or costs aligned to milestone delivery.
- Providing explanatory commentary in the notes section to provide justification to expenditure cost.

2.3.7 Refer to the Financial Methodology - Budget Management Tool for more information.

2.3.8 Funding requests should meet the objectives of the grant schemes, either enhance service delivery, improve accessibility, drive sustainable change, foster innovation, to create a more efficient, client-centered debt advice service capable of meeting current and future demands. Funding requests should not be used to cover the direct costs of delivering business-as-usual operations.

2.4   Scoring Approach

2.4.1 GGMS will score each question within the Application in accordance with the general principles and descriptions shown in the table below. Each response will be marked out of a maximum possible score of 7.

Table 4 – Scoring Methodology / Framework

Question	Minimum Confidence	1 - Unacceptable	3 - Adequate	5 - Good	7 - Excellent
1.2 Please describe the problem or challenge your organisation is facing that this project aims to address. How does this problem affect your debt advice services, clients or operations?	**3**	Problem Statement: Vague or unclear problem statement with little or no relevance to debt advice services. No specific problem identified. Impact on Services/ Clients/Operations: Fails to explain how the problem affects debt advice services, clients, or operations. Minimal or no detail is provided. Link to Project Goals: Weak or no connection between the described problem and the proposed modernisation project. The response lacks clarity and coherence.	Problem Statement: The problem is identified but lacks depth or specificity. The issue is relevant but not clearly articulated. Impact on Services/Clients/ Operations: Some explanation of how the problem affects services, clients, or operations, but lacks detailed examples or evidence. Link to Project Goals: A basic connection between the problem and the proposed project is present but lacks compelling justification or clear evidence of need.	Problem Statement: The problem is well defined and clearly relevant to debt advice services. Specific challenges faced by the organisation are described. Impact on Services/Clients/ Operations: Provides a clear explanation of how the problem negatively affects services, clients, or operations, with examples or evidence. Link to Project Goals: The connection between the problem and the modernisation project is clear, with a solid rationale for how the project will address the issue.	Problem Statement: The problem is clearly articulated, highly specific, and critical to the organisation's ability to provide effective debt advice services. Impact on Services/Clients /Operations: Provides a comprehensive and detailed explanation of how the problem significantly affects services, clients, or operations. Cites specific examples, data, or evidence to illustrate the urgency and scale of the issue. Link to Project Goals: The connection between the problem and the proposed project is robust and compelling, with a clear, evidence-based rationale for how the project will effectively address the problem and deliver significant improvements.

1.3 Explain how your project aligns with the grant's objective of innovating or modernising debt advice services. What specific aspects of your service delivery will be improved or transformed as a result of this project?		Enhance Service Delivery	Enhance Service Delivery	Enhance Service Delivery	Enhance Service Delivery
		Project Alignment: No clear explanation of how the project enhances service delivery or aligns with innovation or modernisation objectives. **Service Transformation:** Fails to identify specific service improvements or how service delivery will be enhanced.	**Project Alignment:** The project provides a basic description of how service delivery will be enhanced, but lacks depth or strong alignment with innovation or modernisation objectives. **Service Transformation:** Some improvements to service delivery are described, but the explanation is superficial and lacks measurable outcomes.	**Project Alignment:** The project is well aligned with innovating or modernising service delivery, clearly explaining the expected enhancements (e.g., faster processes, improved advice quality). **Service Transformation:** Provides clear and specific examples of how the project will improve or streamline service delivery, with potential benefits like increased efficiency or client satisfaction.	**Project Alignment:** The project demonstrates a strong, direct alignment with innovating or modernising service delivery, focusing on transformative changes that are critical to the organisation's success. **Service Transformation:** Provides a detailed, compelling explanation of how the project will significantly enhance service delivery, backed by evidence of measurable benefits (e.g., increased service capacity, improved client outcomes, reduced wait times).

MaPS Scoring Methodology & Assessment Approach

		Improve Accessibility	Improve Accessibility	Improve Accessibility	Improve Accessibility
		Project Alignment: No explanation of how the project will improve accessibility, with little or no relevance to the grant's innovation or modernisation objectives.	**Project Alignment:** The project mentions some efforts to improve accessibility but provides a weak or unclear connection to innovation modernisation.	**Project Alignment:** The project aligns well with the objective of improving accessibility, explaining how it will make services easier to access for a broader range of clients.	**Project Alignment:** The project strongly aligns with improving accessibility, focusing on innovative and transformative approaches to remove barriers to debt advice services.
		Service Transformation: Fails to identify how the project will make services more accessible to clients.	**Service Transformation:** Basic improvements to accessibility are described, but the project lacks specifics or depth regarding how services will become more accessible to clients.	**Service Transformation:** Provides clear, specific examples of how the project will increase accessibility, such as through improvements to physical accessibility, digital, multilingual resources, or remote service delivery.	**Service Transformation:** Provides a detailed, compelling case for how the project will significantly improve accessibility, including measurable outcomes (e.g., increased client engagement, reduced barriers for vulnerable groups).

MaPS Scoring Methodology & Assessment Approach

		Drive Sustainable Change	Drive Sustainable Change	Drive Sustainable Change	Drive Sustainable Change
		Project Alignment: No clear explanation of how the project contributes to sustainable change, with minimal relevance to innovation or modernisation objectives.	**Project Alignment:** The project provides a basic description of how it will support sustainable change, but lacks a strong connection to innovation or modernisation objectives or long-term planning.	**Project Alignment:** The project is well aligned with the objective of driving sustainable change, providing a clear explanation of how it will deliver lasting improvements in service delivery.	**Project Alignment:** The project shows a strong, direct alignment with driving sustainable change, focusing on transformative, long-term improvements that will outlast the grant funding.
		Service Transformation: Fails to demonstrate how the project will create long-lasting improvements in debt advice services.	**Service Transformation:** Some improvements are described, but the sustainability of these changes is uncertain or underdeveloped.	**Service Transformation:** Demonstrates a solid plan for sustaining the project's benefits, with clear strategies for ensuring long-term impact.	**Service Transformation:** Provides a detailed, compelling case for how the project will create lasting, measurable change in service delivery, with clear strategies for sustainability.

MaPS Scoring Methodology & Assessment Approach

Foster Innovation	Foster Innovation	Foster Innovation	Foster Innovation
Project Alignment: No clear explanation of how the project fosters innovation, with little relevance to modernising debt advice services.	**Project Alignment:** The project mentions some level of innovation, but the connection to modernisation is weak or underdeveloped.	**Project Alignment:** The project aligns well with the objective of fostering innovation, introducing new tools, technologies, or methods that will modernise service delivery.	**Project Alignment:** The project strongly aligns with fostering innovation, focusing on transformative approaches to modernising debt advice services.
Service Transformation: Fails to identify any innovative aspects of the project or how it will lead to service improvements.	**Service Transformation:** Some innovative ideas are described, but they are not well defined or unlikely to lead to significant service transformation.	**Service Transformation:** Provides clear, specific examples of innovative approaches that will significantly improve service delivery.	**Service Transformation:** Provides a detailed, compelling case for how highly innovative solutions will revolutionise service delivery, with strong evidence of measurable outcomes (e.g. increased efficiency, enhanced client experiences, new service models).

| 2.1 Provide an overview of your project management approach and outline the resources available within your organisation that will support the successful completion of this project (e.g. staff, technology, infrastructure). How will these resources be allocated during the project delivery window?

Please also note if you have considered any risks as part of the project delivery and how these might be managed. | 3 | **Project Management:** No clear description of how the project will be managed or coordinated. Roles, responsibilities, and key tasks are either missing or highly vague, with no mention of how progress will be tracked.

Resource Allocation: There is no identification of the staff, technology, or infrastructure needed to support the project. It is unclear how resources will be applied, suggesting significant gaps that risk project failure.

Risk: There is little or no risk management. | **Project Management:** A basic project management overview is provided, but lacks sufficient detail. Roles and responsibilities are mentioned but not well-defined. Progress tracking and task management are described, but with limited capacity.

Resource Allocation: Some resources (staff, technology, or infrastructure) are identified but it is unclear how they will be effectively applied throughout the project. Resource availability appears sufficient, but details on how they will be allocated are weak.

Risk: There is limited risk analysis or mitigation | **Project Management:** A solid project management approach is described with clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and tasks. Progress tracking and oversight are mentioned in a structured way, indicating that the project will be well-coordinated and delivered within the timeframe.

Resource Allocation: Resources (staff, technology, infrastructure) are clearly identified, and their allocation is well-explained. The organisation demonstrates that sufficient and relevant resources will be applied effectively to ensure successful project completion.

Risk: Some risks have been identified and addressed, but there are areas of uncertainty | **Project Management:** The project management approach is highly detailed and demonstrates strong coordination, with clear roles and responsibilities. Tasks are well-organised, and robust methods are in place to track progress and ensure smooth delivery.

Resource Allocation: Resources (staff, technology, infrastructure) are comprehensively identified and optimally allocated, ensuring efficient delivery. The description shows how resources will be used effectively throughout the project, with contingencies in place for any potential gaps.

Risks: Clearly identified and have robust mitigation strategies. |

2.2 Please complete and upload the Delivery Plan MS Excel Template to illustrate a profile of timelines, milestones, and how you plan to ensure the project remains on track for timely completion (i.e. by 31st March 2025).	3	The template delivery plan has not been completed / uploaded. The delivery plan includes no timelines, milestones and does not detail how the project will remain on track for timely completion by 31st March 2025. The delivery plan goes beyond the 31st March 2025.	A delivery plan has been completed and uploaded. Brief milestones have been included on the timeline with dates to be delivered by 31st March 2025. Limited or no detail within the delivery plan to explain how the project will remain on track for timely completion by 31st March 2025.	A detailed delivery plan has been completed and uploaded. The delivery plan contains key milestones with sub-tasks each with their own associated deadlines. Delivery plan provides a structured approach to tracking progress and co-ordinating activities. Sufficient detail on how the project will remain on track and be completed by 31st March 2025.	A comprehensive delivery plan has been completed and uploaded. The delivery plan contains key milestones with sub-tasks, resource allocation and specific timelines for task completion. The delivery plan demonstrates a strong system for tracking progress and managing risks during the project. Comprehensive detail on how the project will remain on track and be completed by 31st March 2025.

3.1 Provide details of any similar projects your organisation has completed in the past that demonstrate your ability to deliver projects like the one you are proposing. How did these projects contribute to improving your services or operations?	3	Similar Projects: No previous projects are mentioned, or the examples provided are irrelevant or do not demonstrate experience in delivering similar projects.	Similar Projects: A project or example is provided, but the details are vague or the project is only somewhat relevant to the one being proposed. Experience in delivering similar projects is limited.	Similar Projects: Clear and relevant examples of similar projects are provided, showing the organisation's experience and ability to deliver the proposed project successfully.	Similar Projects: Multiple highly relevant examples of similar projects are provided, demonstrating strong experience and success in delivering projects like the one proposed. The examples show a high level of complexity and alignment with the current project.
		Impact on Services/ Operations: No mention of how past projects contributed to improving services or operations, or the projects had no measurable impact.	Impact on Services/ Operations: Some impact on services or operations is mentioned, but the contribution is not clearly defined or lacks measurable improvements.	Impact on Services/ Operations: Past projects are shown to have contributed positively to services or operations, with specific improvements mentioned. There is a clear link between the project's completion and the benefits gained.	Impact on Services/ Operations: Significant and measurable improvements to services or operations are clearly articulated, with evidence of long-term benefits and positive outcomes from previous projects. The organisation demonstrates learning and innovation from past work.

| 3.2 Describe the skills, qualifications, and experience of the team that will be delivering this project. If you are working with partners or external providers, explain their roles and how they will contribute to the project's success. | 3 | Team Skills and Experience:
No information provided on the skills, qualifications, or experience of the team. The team is unqualified or lacks relevant experience.

Where applicable - Partners or External Providers:
No mention of partners or external providers, or their roles are unclear or irrelevant to the project's success. | Team Skills and Experience:
Basic information on the team's skills, qualifications, and experience is provided, but the details are general or incomplete. The team has some relevant experience but lacks depth or specific qualifications.

Where applicable - Partners or External Providers:
Some mention of external partners or providers, but their roles and contribution to the project are not clearly defined. | Team Skills and Experience:
Clear and relevant details about the team's skills, qualifications, and experience are provided. The team appears well-qualified and capable of delivering the project successfully.

Where applicable - Partners or External Providers:
Are identified, and their roles are clearly explained. They add value to the project, contributing to its success. | Team Skills and Experience:
The team is highly skilled, qualified, and experienced in delivering similar projects. Each member's role is well-defined, and the team demonstrates a deep understanding of the project's needs.

Where applicable - Partners or External Providers:
Are not only clearly identified but bring significant expertise and value to the project. Their roles are integral to the project's success, and there is strong collaboration between all involved parties. |

MaPS Scoring Methodology & Assessment Approach

| 4.1 What are the expected outcomes of your project, and how will they improve the efficiency, effectiveness, or reach of your debt advice services? Please provide specific, measurable indicators of success | 3 | Expected Outcomes: No clear outcomes are provided, or outcomes are vague and not connected to the project's goals.

Improvement to Services: There is no explanation of how the outcomes will improve efficiency, effectiveness, or reach of debt advice services. No indicators of success are mentioned, or they are irrelevant. | Expected Outcomes: Some outcomes are identified, but they are either general or lack specificity. The link between the outcomes and the project's objectives is weak.

Improvement to Services: The potential improvements to efficiency, effectiveness, or reach are mentioned but not well-defined. Some indicators of success are mentioned, but they are not fully measurable or specific. | Expected Outcomes: Clear and relevant outcomes are provided, showing how the project will lead to improvements. The outcomes are linked to the project's objectives and address specific issues in debt advice services.

Improvement to Services: There is a clear explanation of how the project will improve efficiency, effectiveness, or reach. Specific, measurable indicators of success are provided, showing a strong likelihood of achieving the desired impact. | Expected Outcomes: The outcomes are highly detailed, specific, and directly aligned with the project's objectives. The outcomes show a deep understanding of the current challenges in debt advice services and provide innovative solutions.

Improvement to Services: There is a strong, well-defined plan for improving efficiency, effectiveness, or reach, with detailed, measurable success indicators. The outcomes are ambitious yet realistic, and there is a clear strategy for tracking progress and demonstrating impact. |

4.2 Describe how your project will create long-lasting benefits for your organisation and the communities you serve. Will the improvements be scalable or replicable in other services or areas?	3	Long-lasting Benefits: No clear description of long-lasting benefits for the organisation or communities. The project's impact appears short-term or unsustainable.	Long-lasting Benefits: Some benefits are mentioned, but they are either general or short-term. The project may provide improvements, but there is limited focus on how these will be sustained over time.	Long-lasting Benefits: Clear and specific long-term benefits are described for the organisation and the communities served. The project is likely to create sustainable improvements that will continue beyond its initial implementation.	Long-lasting Benefits: The project is designed to deliver substantial, long-lasting benefits for both the organisation and the communities it serves. The benefits are well-defined and address critical needs, ensuring long-term sustainability and continuous improvement.
		Scalability or Replicability: No mention of how the project could be scaled or replicated, or the project is not adaptable to other services or areas.	Scalability or Replicability: There is some mention of scalability or replicability, but it lacks detail or clear examples. The potential for expanding the project to other areas or services is limited.	Scalability or Replicability: The project has strong potential for scalability or replicability, with examples or plans for how it could be adapted in other areas or services. It is feasible to expand or replicate the approach.	Scalability or Replicability: The project has a high level of scalability and replicability, with a detailed, realistic plan for expanding to other services or areas. It demonstrates a strong potential to influence wider change and can be adapted effectively in other contexts.

MaPS Scoring Methodology & Assessment Approach

Scoring Principles

- GGMS need a high level of confidence in the deliverability of the propositions as set out in the application form.
- The scoring methodology is drafted so that the evaluators will look for material/content in the application form to substantiate any propositions made.
- Evaluators will assess material/content in the form of evidence drawn from the Applicant's direct or indirect experience.
- Where an Applicant is not able to provide evidence from its direct or indirect experience - for example, this may involve a proposal from the Applicant where the Applicant has no prior experience in delivering that proposal to date or is making new additions or expansions to its existing service, the Evaluation Panel will evaluate any material/content that substantiates the credibility of the proposition.
- For the avoidance of doubt, Applications that state a statement of intent alone (for example, "we will do x") is not enough to substantiate a proposition and will be scored in accordance with the above scoring methodology.

2.5 Moderation of scores

2.5.1 Applications will be scored individually and independently by a team of evaluators. The scores will be reviewed by a Quality Lead and final assessment by a Team Leader within GGMS.

2.5.2 A minimum score of 3 or above for each criterion must be achieved to be eligible for the awarding of funding.

2.5.3 Any organisation who has scored 1, unacceptable in any of the questions will not be offered funding.

2.5.4 Response to each criterion is subject to a scalable word limit. The word count shall begin from the start of each response until the word limit is reached. Any response in excess of the specified word limit will be disregarded and will not be assessed/scored. Attachments to supplement responses are only permissible where clearly stated within the question. Words within these attachments do not contribute to the word limit.

2.5.5 For this grant scheme, it is envisaged organisations are to be ranked in order of those who scored the highest in descending order. It is MaPS intention to award funding in order of those who scored highest until the funding envelope has been depleted.

2.5.6 In the event, there are one or more organisations who have scored the same score and there isn't sufficient budget to be allocated to all, a review will be conducted on their impact scores, those scoring highest on impact over another provider will be allocated the remaining funding budget.

2.6   Successful applications

2.6.1   MaPS reserves the right to not award.

2.6.2   MaPS intends to award funding on the basis of the highest total scoring proposals.

2.6.3   MaPS must consider affordability when awarding the funding as it cannot exceed the maximum funding envelope, therefore it may not be able to award the highest total scoring proposal.

2.6.4   Successful applicants will enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with MaPS. The terms and conditions of this agreement will be non-negotiable.

2.7   Final confirmation

2.7.1   Upon successful completion of assessment and due diligence, the issue of final confirmation to Applicants will be made from mid-December 2024.

2.8   Potential Funding Discussions Post Assessment

2.8.1   Discuss options for alternative levels of funding with successful applicants if necessary.

2.8.2   Discuss any requests for payments not to be made in to be made in arrears (e.g. as an advance).

2.8.3   Discuss any data protection matters should proposals relate to funding activities connected to personally identifiable information.

2.9   Advice & Support

2.9.1   If you have any questions relating to this grant application process please email GGMS at ggms_mapsdebtfund@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.