

Consolidated FAQs – VCSE Prevention Grant

Applying to the Fund

1. How many applications can an organisation submit?

Each organisation can submit one application as a lead applicant. That single application can include multiple projects, each of which can contain multiple activities. Large organisations with legally distinct subsidiaries may be able to apply separately, provided each entity meets the eligibility criteria.

If an organisation is the non-lead within a consortium bid, that application will not count towards their limit of one application per organisation. For example, an organisation may be a non-lead consortium partner for two bids, in addition to submitting its own separate application (for a different project) as a lead applicant.

2. Do we need to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)?

No. Submitting an EOI is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. Organisations that do not submit an EOI will still be able to apply when the full application window opens. The EOI process will run until 9 January 2026.

3. Is there an application template available?

The full application form will be published when the competition opens.

4. When does the application window open and close?

The grant competition is currently due to open on 12 January 2026. We will communicate any delays to this.

The closing date will be confirmed in the official advert, but the application process is expected to last a month.

Funding Structure and Duration

5. Is this a multi-year fund?

Yes. This is a £30 million, two-year fund running from April 2026 to March 2028, for the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector only.

6. How much can organisations apply for?

Minimum: £5,000

Maximum: £3 million per annum

7. Is the funding split with local authorities?

No. This fund is specifically for VCSE organisations. Local authorities will be funded through a separate programme.

8. Will there be future funding rounds?

Yes. The scheme is expected to operate in phased tranches, with opportunities to apply in future rounds, subject to funding availability.

Eligibility and Independence from Industry

9. Who can apply?

VCSE organisations delivering, or planning to deliver, gambling-related harm prevention activity in England.

10. Does organisation size or income matter?

No. Applications are assessed on quality, impact and value for money, not organisational size.

11. What does “independence from industry” mean?

Organisations must not receive funding from gambling operators or related bodies from 1 April 2026. Organisations must also ensure all employees and board members are not linked to the industry. In the grant application form organisations will need to clearly set out their commitment to adapting any materials or approaches developed in collaboration with industry.

12. Is National Lottery/Allwyn and regulatory settlement funding allowed?

Yes. Funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and regulatory settlement funding are permitted during this transitional grant.

Partnerships and Collaboration

13. Can VCSEs partner with local authorities?

Yes. Engagement with local authorities is encouraged and does not create a conflict of interest. Local authorities are not eligible for receipt of funds via this grant. We will share the organisations that receive funding through this VCSE grant with LAs to ensure no duplication and alignment with LA future funding decisions.

What the Fund Will and Will Not Cover

14. What is the fund expected to cover?

The Fund will support non-clinical gambling-related harm prevention, early-intervention and recovery activities delivered by VCSE organisations in England. This includes work that helps people understand, reduce or avoid gambling-related harm, particularly those at higher risk or who are less likely to access statutory services. Projects may operate at a local, regional or national level, provided they can demonstrate impact, feasibility and value for money. Projects may be directed towards affected others instead of, or in addition to, people who gamble.

15. What types of activity are in or out of scope?

The Fund **cannot** support activities that fall outside the scope of non-clinical early prevention work such as clinical, therapeutic or treatment services or acute crisis support, which we expect to be funded separately through NHS England. In addition, the fund will not support the following:

- activity funded or influenced by the gambling industry (except where there are exceptions e.g. National Lottery),
- international activities,
- general fundraising,
- large-scale capital costs or long-term programmes requiring financial commitment beyond 2028,
- **direct financial assistance to individuals**, such as hardship payments, debt relief or personal grants,
- **activities unrelated to gambling-related harm prevention**, such as drug/alcohol treatment, non-gambling mental health services, or broader wellbeing programmes unless gambling-related harm is a core component,
- **commercial or profit-making activity**, or work that does not align with the Fund's independence requirements.

NHS England intends to launch their own **treatment and support fund** and will provide information on this in due course.

Prevention Definitions and Grey Areas

16. What counts as “affected others”?

Anyone impacted by someone else’s gambling, including family members, friends and communities. This will not include affected others in a treatment context.

17. Where do digital tools (e.g. self-assessment) sit?

Digital self-assessment and early-intervention tools are generally considered prevention, not treatment.

18. Is crypto-related harm in scope?

No. Except for in cases where the project or activity addresses crypto-related harm as a means of supporting gambling-related harm prevention.

19. Will OHID provide prevention frameworks or principles?

Yes. Core principles and guidance will be provided around creating problem statements to support your objectives.

Geography and Scale

20. Is this fund for England only?

Yes. The fund is for activity delivered in England. Scotland and Wales have separate arrangements, though cross-border work may be considered where appropriate. Projects can be local, regional or national. Applications covering the whole of England are permitted.

Assessment, Value for Money and Governance

21. Will the scoring criteria be published?

Yes. Applicants will be able to see how bids will be assessed.

22. What does “good value for money” mean?

Budgets should be proportionate, clearly linked to activities and expected outputs/outcomes, and demonstrate efficient use of public money. Guidance will be provided.

23. Who will assess applications?

Applications will be assessed by independent panels, with appropriate delivery expertise and recommendations submitted to OHID for final review.

Data, Monitoring and Evaluation

24. What reporting will be required?

Grant holders will be required to submit quarterly monitoring data, including outputs, outcomes and financial information. Further details of the reporting and monitoring process will be communicated to successful applicants in due course.

26, what will be the requirement on length of organisational accounts

We welcome new approaches to innovation around prevention of gambling-related harm, so eligibility requirements on length of organisational accounts and financial track records will be set at 6 months.

25. Will we need to use a national digital system?

Yes. A national digital data service will be introduced. Existing CRM systems will be taken into account and integration supported where possible.

26. What are the longer-term evaluation requirements?

OHID, as the lead prevention Commissioner for the Gambling Levy, intends to evaluate the VCSE Prevention Grant as part of its wider programme evaluation. Any specific evaluation requirements will be communicated to successful applicants in advance.

Capacity Building and Support

27. Is funding available for organisational resilience and capacity building?

Yes. The Fund can be used to support projects relating to building resilience and systems capacity, including the following activities:

- organisational development,
- infrastructure and systems,
- skills and capability,
- fundraising capacity (where proportionate).

28. What support is available to help with applications?

Support is expected to include include:

- webinars and guidance,
- clarification windows,
- potential drop-in or technical sessions.