

FAQs for the Re-Rooted funding call

Date: 26 March 2024

Please note:

- For support with your **application** please refer to the **application guidance**.
- If you are experiencing **technical issues**, please get in touch by emailing fundinginfo@comicrorelief.com.

This FAQ includes sections on:

- Your proposal for funding.
- Available funding, and the funding process.
- Eligibility to apply and be awarded funding.

PROPOSALS

Will you prioritise applications for a combination of services and influencing?

As stated in the call, we welcome applications that focus on: services and support, influencing, or a combination of both. We recognise that organisations have their own expertise in different areas. We want to support organisations to continue, or build upon their successful track record.

Are there any restrictions on influencing work?

influencing can happen at local or national level, and can involve anything from shifting public attitudes and narratives, tackling stigma and discrimination, helping to improve services and support provided by other organisations and institutions, to influencing policy and practice. Work that is funded by Re-Rooted must follow government guidance on campaigning and political activity by charities, regardless of your organisation's registration status. There is separate government guidance for [England and Wales](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and [Scotland](#).

What do you mean by involvement of people with lived experience?

Across the charitable sector, meaningful involvement of people with lived experience is a priority, and an approach that needs further development for many organisations. It is highly relevant to the migration sector, given the lack of refugees and asylum seekers having an effective voice concerning issues that have a critical impact on their lives.

As examples, people with lived experience can be meaningfully involved in developing the organisation's work and priority areas, and/or in the running of the organisation. This can be achieved in several ways, such as consistent and meaningful consultation, ongoing steering or advisory groups led by refugees and asylum seekers, leadership roles, and involvement as staff, volunteers and trustees.

We want to know how your organisation includes the voices of people you support in shaping your priorities and designing your activities, and future plans you have for reinforcing this good practice.

If our proposal is focusing on influencing and advocacy work, does this need to be improved outcomes for refugees and asylum seekers specifically in relation to safe routes or can it be for influencing work that improves outcomes more broadly?

If your proposal is focusing on influencing and advocacy work, this can be for safer routes or improved outcomes for refugees and asylum seekers to achieve safety and security in the UK more broadly.

How can we apply as a partnership?

We welcome applications from single organisations or partners of two or three organisations. Partners are entities working closely together to deliver the project, and who are each responsible for managing part of the budget. One lead partner is responsible to Comic Relief for submitting the proposal on behalf of all the partners, and the overall delivery, spending and reporting. All partners must meet the basic eligibility criteria. Organisations that do not meet the eligibility criteria could still be involved through contracts, for example to provide specific consultancy services.

Can a partnership include an organisation that focuses solely on legal advice and support?

Organisations whose sole or main focus is legal system access and improvement may be eligible as part of a partnership proposal. Proposals for service delivery should be holistic, to better meet multiple needs of refugees and/or asylum seekers, delivered by one applicant organisation or in partnership with others.

Do we need to submit a budget as part of this proposal?

No, you will not have to submit a budget during the application process. If your proposal is successful, you will need to send a budget for approval as part of the start-up process. This will be a condition of funding before the first instalment of funds can be made.

Do you look for traditional KPI style data in your monitoring and evaluation?

Please note: We will ask for this monitoring and evaluation information after funding is approved, and not as part of the proposal process.

We ask organisations to identify a small number of outcomes they would like to see as a result of the funding, and we encourage organisations to use their existing data where possible. Funded organisations identify indicators to demonstrate progress against outcomes. For core funding, your outcomes may be broad and speak to the wider work of your organisation.

This process should provide your organisation with its own information to track progress, and demonstrate results for internal and external audiences.

Will funding be weighted to organisations with lower income levels?

No, the Re-Rooted funding call will not prioritise annual income levels as part of the approval process. Organisations need to have annual income between £250,000 and £10 million in order to apply.

FUNDING

When will we find out if our proposal will be taken to the next stage?

- Proposals will be shortlisted after the application deadline. You should be told the outcome of the shortlisting stage in early May.
- For shortlisted applications, we expect the funding decisions will be announced in late June or early July.

When will the funding start if our proposal is approved?

There is no predefined start date. You will be able to propose a date that reflects when you will start allocating costs. This could be right after an offer letter is signed, or after some start-up and preparation steps e.g. recruitment of staff.

How long will the funding last?

From 36 to 60 months.

What do you mean by flexible, core funding?

Flexible, core funding is designed to support the good work of organisations, and not just projects.

- This could mean core funding of the organisation's annual budget to continue its good work, or funding to expand the work, or to add something new that amplifies the work or its results.
- As flexible funding, it can be allocated for expenses that are harder to fund, such as salaries of senior management or administration, or ongoing costs that are not covered by other grants.

Please note:

- Flexible, core funding has to be used for an agreed purpose, and in an agreed time period.
- Core funding is not the same as unrestricted funding, which you can put in a bank or investment and spend however you want.

Restrictions:

- In the case of Re-Rooted, the funding is restricted for use over a period of three to five years.
- As stated in the funding call, it is to be used for the overall purpose of supporting safety and security for refugees and asylum seekers, particularly through direct services, influencing, or a combination of both.
- A budget will be proposed and agreed as part of the start-up process.
- Comic Relief is a flexible and responsive funder. During the life of the grant, the allocations of funding for specific costs can be adjusted following Comic Relief's process to modify budgets.

How much funding can we apply for?

Up to £200,000.

If we ask for the maximum amount, will this be looked upon unfavourably?

No. You should apply for the level of funding based on good work you can carry out and your organisation's ability to manage and use funds within the funding period.

What is the deadline for applications to this fund?

12 noon on Tuesday, 26th March. If you are experiencing a technical difficulty that is preventing you from submitting by the deadline please get in touch with us as soon as possible by emailing fundinginfo@comicrelief.com.

What will be the next steps after submitting an application form?

- If your proposal is shortlisted, your organisation will be asked to submit additional information regarding governance, finances, and approach to safeguarding.
- You will be invited to a meeting to find out more about your organisation, and to discuss your proposal.

Do you fund capital costs?

Comic Relief will not support capital costs over 25% of the total funding request, and capital costs will need to have a strong link to the changes you are aiming to achieve.

ELIGIBILITY

What annual income do organisations need to apply?

Funding is available for organisations with annual income from £250,000 to £10 million. We will use the income shown on your most recent annual accounts submitted to the

relevant authorities, or annual accounts in the process of being submitted at the time of the proposal deadline.

My organisation is in the process of becoming legally constituted, can we still apply?

Comic Relief uses the last set of annual accounts submitted to the relevant authority as a basis for whether an organisation is eligible. So unfortunately, you are ineligible to apply if your organisation does not have annual accounts.

Can local authorities apply as either the lead applicant or as a partner?

Unfortunately, no. Comic Relief does not fund the delivery of services that are normally the responsibility of governments. This also means that local authorities cannot be one of the partners included in a proposal.

My organisation currently receives Comic Relief funding, can we still apply?

Yes, if your organisation still meets eligibility criteria for this fund.

Which countries does this funding apply to?

This call is for organisations registered in the UK, and that currently specialise in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Can we send more than one proposal?

To give as many organisations as fair a chance as possible, you can only submit one proposal to each funding call (though you can be named as a partner on any number of applications). Please be aware that we will never read more than one proposal per lead applicant organisation.

Can I still apply if my organisation does not meet the criteria in the eligibility questionnaire?

In this case, unfortunately you cannot submit an application. We can only fund a organisations that meet our eligibility requirements, and we would not want you to spend time completing an application that will be rejected.

We want to submit a partnership bid but the partner is not constituted, can we still apply?

Your organisation can still apply, but you cannot include an organisation that does not have a formal constitution and does not meet other basic requirements including annual accounts. You could still work with that organisation through a separate contract, for instance for providing consultancy services.

Is the income threshold of £250k-£10million a year mandatory for every organisation in a partnership application or does this only apply to the lead applicant?

Our income criteria relate to the lead applicant, whose income needs to be between £250,000 and £10 million in the UK. Partners do not need to fit this income criteria. If the lead applicant's income is between £250,000 and £10 million, but the partner organisation/s is not, that is ok. However, the income of several smaller organisations cannot be combined to make the £250,000 minimum.

Are we still able to apply for this fund to cover our work with asylum seekers and refugees if it is not the only focus of our organisation?

The funding opportunity is for organisations that specialise in supporting refugees and asylum seekers, this doesn't mean that these groups have to be the sole beneficiaries of the organisations work. This can be a stream of your work as long as your organisation is able to identify your track record in delivering services to support refugees/asylum seekers, and that these funds will be used for the overall purpose of supporting the safety and security for refugees and asylum seekers, particularly through direct services, influencing, or a combination of both.