

Changemakers Funding Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

Comic Relief – August 2020

We hope you find the following information useful.

These frequently asked questions apply to Changemakers funding opportunity, which is open for applications until 12 noon on **25th September 2020**

To improve your chances of having a successful proposal, please also read the following:

- The criteria for Changemakers can be found here: <https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/funding-opportunities/change-makers/>
- The guidance for applying to Changemakers can be found [here](#).
- More detail about our eligibility criteria: <https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/eligibility-criteria>
- How our application process works: <https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/application-process>

If you have any other questions, please send them to fundinginfo@comicrelief.com.

The application deadline has changed – why is this?

In response to feedback from existing partners and interested applicants we have extended the deadline to 25th September 2020 to ensure people have sufficient time to develop their proposals and identify partners.

Eligibility

What is the minimum and maximum annual income organisations need to apply for this funding?

£250,000 minimum, £10 million maximum. If you are an equalities-focused and user-led organisation the minimum requirement reduces to £75,000. User-led organisations are considered to be those where the majority of the leadership (i.e. at least half of senior team and trustees) are from the community(ies) the organisation serves.

Can we apply if our income is over £10 million?

Unfortunately, we cannot reconsider our eligibility requirements for this funding programme. Our eligibility criteria have a minimum income requirement as we are committed to developing trust based mutually rewarding relationships with our funded partners. In order to do that, it is important we make fewer, bigger, and longer investments. For that reason, our direct investments are to middle-income organisations only, where we think our funding can have the greatest impact. This means we do not routinely fund large organisations with an annual turnover of over £10m

Which countries does this funding apply to?

The funding is for organisations delivering projects in the United Kingdom only.

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 the Changemakers funding programme (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 organisation.

Funding

How much funding can we apply for?

We will fund investments from £150,000 - £600,000

How long will the funding last?

Funding is available for a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of 5 years

Are funds reserved for BAME organisations?

20% of the available funding is ring-fenced for efforts led by and working with BAME communities.

Can we apply for funding of core costs?

We are welcoming requests for core funding alongside funding for project delivery costs. During the application process we'll invite you to tell us what combination of core and project costs you need. We know organisations can feel hesitant about applying for core funds. We also know how much it's needed.

Do you fund capital costs?

Comic Relief will not support capital costs over 25% of the total funding request. However, whilst the limit for permitted capital costs is 25%, we would need to see a strong

justification for the need for the proposed capital costs in the application. Please note that you are required to demonstrate how this requested capital cost will enhance the delivery of the project you are proposing.

What work will Comic Relief support?

Your proposed work must contribute to change for more than your organisation or your direct beneficiaries.

Some ways you might do this include the following – though this is not an exhaustive list:

- working with others directly in partnership
- creating shared learning, evidence, research
- producing and sharing evidence of effective models of working
- working with others to model new ways of working

The contribution can be to any forum or area that feels appropriate, for example:

- enhance commissioning in your local area
- provide a cross-sectoral response to issues in your local area
- shift the understanding within your sector or allied sectors on an issue, model, approach
- influencing communities, charities or the public sector to be more responsive and effective
- shift policy or legislation
- shift public attitudes

My project will provide some services to help a group of individuals. Does this have a good chance of funding?

No. We are really looking to fund projects which will make an impact to address a significant problem or issue which you or others have specifically identified. The project or solution needs to have an impact which is greater than outcomes for individual beneficiaries and outside of just benefiting your organisation. We're trying to be ambitious and fund work that has the potential to be game changing.

Our project will be led by young people/ another group who we are yet to recruit yet. Is it ok not to have a fully formed plan?

Yes, this is fine. We want you to tell us about the problem and your ideas about how you think it should be addressed. We understand the detail might be top line, particularly for stage 1 proposals.

We want to apply under the mental health theme. Does this include preventative work as well as provision for people with mental health problems?

We are interested in early-intervention and targeted work for those who are more marginalised, but purely preventative work is unlikely to have a strong fit.

Do you include learning disabilities and dementia as mental health problems?

We don't include learning disabilities within our mental health definition. We would, however, be interested in proposals which are focused on the mental health needs of people with learning disabilities.

What do you mean by user involvement? What are you looking for?

For the equalities and user led strand of Change Makers we are seeking to fund organisations which are user led. Our definition of this is organisations where the majority of the leadership (i.e at least half of the senior team and trustees) are from the community(ies) the organisation serves. This could mean that the work is women-led, led by people with experience of mental health problems or from Black, Asian or Minority ethnic groups.

We will be looking for strong user involvement in all projects funded using the principle of 'nothing about us without us'.

What will Comic Relief not support with this funding?

- General infrastructure support
- Work that primarily benefits one individual
- Repayment of debt
- Redundancy costs
- Contribution to reserves

Can we apply for any amount £150,000 and £600,000

The average annual funding you are requesting should not be more than 2/3 of your organisation's most recent annual income. For example – if annual income is £300K the organisation could apply for an average of £200K a year, so a three year request could total £600K.

I want to deliver a partnership project but won't be able to develop the partnership in full before stage 1. Is this ok?

We'd expect you to have a good idea about who the partners are likely to be and what sort of role they will play. We do understand however that it takes a while to form ways of working and that the partnership is likely to shift and develop over time.

Proposal

What will our application be assessed on?

We assess applications based on context, the approach to change and fit to fund priorities.

Project start date

Can you please clarify what the start date for a project would be if a successful with an application?

Funding will begin in May 2021.

Other

Do you prefer to fund new work or existing projects?

We like both tried and tested and new work –just tell us why you think it will work.
We also want to fund core costs alongside project delivery.

Will Changemakers open again later this year?

No.

Who should I contact if I have questions about applying to Changemakers?

If you have any questions please contact fundinginfo@comicrelief.com

Thank you for your interest, and good luck in your proposal development!

The Comic Relief Team