



Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund 2017-20

Eligibility Criteria

1. Purpose of the Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund 2017-20

The 2017-20 Scottish Government Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund (PECF) is now open to applications. Funding will only be granted to projects which work with, or on behalf of, people who are disadvantaged due to the protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender (sex), gender identity/ reassignment, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

2. Fund Outcomes

Applicants must be able to demonstrate how their proposed project will address a minimum of one and up to a maximum of three of the following PECF outcomes:

1. Discrimination against people who share protected characteristics is reduced, and multiple discrimination is addressed so that barriers to participation are reduced.
2. People covered by hate crime legislation experience lower levels of hate crime.
3. People and communities are supported to participate in and engage with services and civic society; their contribution is recognised and community cohesion is increased.
4. Current imbalances in representation in all aspects and levels of public life, including education and employment, are addressed to better reflect our communities.

Applicants should demonstrate, where relevant, the way in which the work of the project helps deliver against specific actions in key Scottish Government equality publications/consultations/review set out below and the Scottish Government National Outcomes and National Performance Framework Outcomes at Annex A. Given this funding is for work to promote equality specifically, any actions should be set out in context of the protected characteristics, e.g. addressing poverty in relation to disabled people rather than addressing poverty more generally.

Key Scottish Government equality publications, consultations and review

- Race Equality Framework
- A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People
- New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities
- Fairer Scotland Action Plan
- Scotland's Labour Market Strategy
- Scottish Government consultation on the Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill (consultation period: 5 January – 17 March 2017)
- Forthcoming Scottish Government consultation on the first British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan (1 March – 31 May 2017)
- Forthcoming Scottish Government consultation on the reform of Gender Recognition legislation (summer 2017)
- Any engagement with Lord Bracadale's independent review of the existing laws around hate crime offences in Scotland (30 January 2017 – January 2018 approximately)

3. Fund Eligibility

The following organisations are eligible: incorporated third sector organisations, community interest companies, statutory bodies and partnerships where the lead partner must be an incorporated third sector organisation. If you are unsure as to whether your organisation is eligible for this funding, please contact VAF to enquire at pecfenquiries@vaf.org.uk.

To be eligible for funding, applicants are required to demonstrate the following in their application:

Partnership Working

- Demonstrate that your project will engage in partnership working, which can include financial support, in-kind support, involvement in other related partnerships, e.g. with the community safety sector, local government, other local services, etc.
- Ensure that the project does not duplicate existing work either being carried out at a national or local level.

Governance

- Have in place effective and accountable governance, management and financial systems and structures.
- Have policies which state exactly how your service users are able to input into service development.

Equality and Diversity

- Demonstrate commitment to equality and diversity.
- State clearly how your project activity will reduce barriers to services and seeks to address the needs of specific groups.
- Demonstrate how you will contribute to promoting equality through work to progress the Equality Outcomes and the National Performance Framework outcomes as described in Annex A.

4. How much is available?

The value of the PECF 2017-20 is likely to be approximately £2.5 million per annum. Funding will be available for three periods: 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018; 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019; and 1 July 2019 – 31 March 2020. Priority for funding will be given to projects that can demonstrate a strong track record of delivering effective services.

The Equality Budget for 2017-18 is £20.3 million, however, the value of the Equality Budget in 2018-19 and 2019-20 will not be known when grant offers are made. Any grant offer, therefore, will only provide indicative figures for 2018-20 which will be confirmed once the Equality Budget has been agreed for those financial years. If the Equality Budget in 2018-19 or 2019-20 should reduce from £20.3 million, it is likely that there will be reductions in the indicative offers of grant made in those financial years. The detail of the way in which this will be managed will only be determined once the Equality Budget figure is known.

5. How much can be applied for?

This is an open and competitive fund. Although there is no upper limit that projects can apply for, applicants are advised that this funding round is likely to be extremely competitive and no applicant is guaranteed funding. Applications should therefore be moderate and realistic, and associated costs focused on the direct delivery of the project. In order to support various projects across all of the protected characteristics, any costs considered not directly relevant or excessive will not be recommended for funding.

For projects that have previously been funded under the Equality Budget and would be interested in applying for funding in 2017-20, please note that it will not be possible to provide significant increases in funding without reducing the number of projects that the Scottish Government can support. Applications will be assessed on the strength of the outcomes proposed and awards will be proportionate to the outcomes.

6. What is not eligible for funding?

The purpose of PECF is not to core fund organisations. Its primary function is to provide time-limited funding for specific projects focused on working with people with protected characteristics covered under the Equality Act 2010.

Funding does not cover:

- Trustees' expenses.
- Capital projects (for example, purchase of buildings, building works and refurbishment or ICT infrastructure).
- Attendance at non-outcome related conferences (either UK or international).
- Projects that do not benefit those who share protected characteristics.
- The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups).
- Trips abroad.
- The repayment of loans or payments of debts.

- Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before a decision is made on awarding a grant (retrospective funding).
- Overheads exceeding 20% of the total funding.
- Individuals, groups without a constitution, and for-profit agencies.

7. How to apply

The deadline for applications is **midnight on Friday 17 March 2017**. A Word application form, an Excel budget form and application guidance can be downloaded from the VAF website: www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk. Completed applications, budgets and supporting documentation should be submitted to pecfapplications@vaf.org.uk, the mailbox has an automated response acknowledging the receipt of your application. Please contact Louise Heathcote on 01383 620780 if you do not receive an automated response.

Scottish Government: National Equality Outcomes and National Performance Framework Outcomes

(Please note that the Equality Outcomes for 2017-21 are currently under development and will be published in April 2017.)

Scottish Government National Equality Outcomes:

- Gypsies/Travellers experience less discrimination and more positive attitudes towards their culture and way of life by 2017.
- Women's position in the economy and in employment is improved in the long term and reflected more comprehensively in Scottish Government economic policy and strategies by 2017.
- Disabled people have improved access to justice and to advice in relation to their rights by 2017.
- Within the longer term outcome that all children and young people will be able to make the most of the education opportunities available to them to reach their full potential, there will be progress by 2017 in the experience of those with protected characteristics who are currently disadvantaged or underperforming.

National Performance Framework Outcomes:

- We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger.
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- We have strong resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to people's needs.
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
- We live longer, healthier lives.
- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
- Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it.