

In partnership with



LGBT+ Futures: Equity Fund Guidance

About the fund

Consortium has been working with diverse, intersectional, and targeted LGBT+ voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations over the last few years to explore additional and future income generation for LGBT+ organisations, recognising the low levels of investment in our communities.

Since 2019, Consortium has delivered successful grant-giving programmes, which has seen the distribution of over £1.75m to LGBT+ communities, including an Equity Fund programme launched in 2022. In partnership with a range of diverse LGBT+ organisations, we identified the need for deeper investment in intersectional-focused and targeted LGBT+ organisations.

Thanks to National Lottery players, funding from the National Lottery Community Fund has enabled us to deliver a second round of the LGBT+ Futures: Equity Fund which focuses on supporting user-led LGBT+ organisations working with targeted under-represented and under-resourced communities.

The aims of the fund are:

- To support intersectional LGBT+ organisations to grow and influence the LGBT+ voluntary sector in more equitable ways
- To ensure intersectional LGBT+ organisations are better equipped to work with their beneficiaries as a result of receiving funding and support
- To enable intersectional LGBT+ organisations to gain more confidence to develop relationships with and/or apply for grants through other funders

Please read this guidance for the best chance of success when applying to the fund.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be an **England based non-profit¹ group or organisation that is led by and for LGBT+ people** and specifically working with one or more of the following communities of focus:

- **D/deaf, Disabled, Neurodivergent LGBT+ People**
- **LGBTQIA+ Women**
- **LGBT+ People of the Global Majority**
- **Older LGBT+ People**
- **Trans and Non-Binary People**

We know some work will only focus on sections of those communities. Others may work across intersections.

Groups must be able to show they are **led by and for the communities of focus listed above**.

- This means the primary purpose of your organisation is to support one of the communities of focus **and**;
- these communities are majority represented in your leadership.

If your organisation supports a wider group of people (e.g. all LGBT+ people), unfortunately your project is **not** eligible for this fund, even if you have a project to support one or more communities of focus. Your organisation must be set up to support one or more of the communities of focus.

You do not need to be a Member of Consortium to be eligible to apply.

How much can I apply for?

Grants range from **£100 to £25,000** and applicants are welcome to apply for the amount they need to undertake their work. Please be aware that we are limited to the number of larger grants we can award.

All grants must be **fully spent by 30th October 2025**.

¹ This includes: This includes: CIOs, Registered charities, Co-operative Societies, CASC, CBS, CICs, Companies limited by guarantee, Informal groups, Social Enterprises or Unincorporated Associations.

What we can fund

The aim of this Fund is to help intersectional and targeted LGBT+ organisations be well resourced, sustainable, and resilient. Therefore, we want to be as flexible as possible with the funding available.

- If you have a project you are interested in getting funded, then we want to hear from you
- If your organisation can demonstrate it has been doing amazing work and needs core funding or leadership development, then let us know about it
- If there is a piece of development work or internal governance that you as an organisation want to do then think about putting in an application

Provided your funding request is relative to the size and functions of your organisation we are excited to receive applications from a diverse range of intersectional and targeted LGBT+ organisations.

We are also interested in hearing from groups who are new and needing support to thrive and grow.

Examples of grants we have awarded

- Improving the health and wellbeing of Deaf LGBT+ people by providing accessible information in British Sign Language on topics such as bullying, sexual health, pride and Deaf LGBTQ history
- Free basketball sessions for lesbian, bisexual and trans women and non-binary people living in London
- Towards support for African LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers which includes asylum procedures, workshops and social activities
- Regular activities for the LGBT+ community in Manchester who are over 50 to reduce social isolation and improve confidence and mental wellbeing
- To support the cost of outreach for the Trans community in East Anglia by providing advice and a safe place to meet

To view more examples of awarded Equity Fund grants please visit our website [here](#).

What we cannot fund

Whilst we are keen to fund as many LGBT+ organisations, groups, and projects as we can, there are several types of organisations, projects and work that we cannot fund.

Please ensure that you read the list carefully. If you are unsure if your organisation or proposed work is eligible, please get in touch with the Grants Team.

- Any organisation, group or project that is not specifically focused on and led by the communities of focus identified.
- Organisations which cannot demonstrate that they are working in an inclusive, non-discriminatory way.
- Activities that take place outside of the UK.
- Standalone or large capital purchases.
- Research, unless community-led research to increase lack of evidence base.
- Political Groups.
- Work that promotes religion (i.e. work that evangelises or proselytizes).
- Organisations or projects that will distribute the grant money to others.
- Retrospective costs, i.e. costs already incurred prior to receiving a grant including the repayment of loans.
- Work that duplicates existing local or thematic work.
- Any organisation currently or previously in receipt of a grant from Consortium which has a history of non-compliance with grant conditions.

How do I apply?

Applications are primarily via the online form, but we have worked hard to minimise the amount of time it will take for organisations to apply.

Applications can also be made via a video application and uploaded [here](#). Videos should be a maximum length of 5 minutes and information included in the video will be transcribed into a written application form by a member of the Grants team. No community panellists will view the original video.

To keep the application process as fair as possible, our application form requests more information from applicants who request larger amounts. Depending on the size of the request, organisations may be asked to provide the following as part of their application:

- A document which outlines what the group is for and the rules for running it.
- Information on two or more unrelated trustees, committee / board members or directors.
- A correspondence address.

- Relevant and appropriate Safeguarding Policies (for larger organisations or those working with vulnerable service users).
- A bank account in the organisations name or be able to nominate a registered charity to hold the grant in trust.

All organisations should have good governance, appropriate financial management in place and high standards of safeguarding for staff, volunteers and those using their support or services however we do recognise that smaller, grassroots organisations may not have all these structures in place.

The fund opens to applications on 23rd May 2024 at 12pm. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and the programme will close to new applications on 21st November 2024 at 12pm.

Community Panels will be assessing applications in batches and there is a finite allocation of funding for this Fund, so please bear this in mind when looking to apply.

Please get in touch with our team if your organisation is missing any of documents above, but your group meets the criteria and needs funds.

Decision Making and Timeline

Your application will be assessed by multiple community representatives with expertise in the community or communities of focus your work is for.

Consortium's staff team may be in touch to ask additional questions as part of this process, but the final decision will be made by a panel of experts.

Please be aware that an organisation's track record of meeting conditions of previous or existing grants and completing end of grant monitoring will be considered when assessing applications.

We aim to let applicants know the outcome of their applications within a maximum of **4 months** of applying—but hope decisions will be made much quicker than this.

Reporting on your grant

Once your grant has been fully spent, we will send you a short monitoring report for you to complete. This report asks for information on how your grant was spent and what you achieved. We will be in touch during throughout the year to see how grantees are doing and if there's any additional support we can offer.

What support is available?

We appreciate it may be some people's first time submitting a funding application and/or some people may find form-filling challenging. We want to remove as many barriers to receiving funding as possible through this Fund. The Grants team are available to provide support and advice with your application and are also happy to do a supported application where we accept answers via a call.

Feel free to contact us at: grants@consortium.lgbt. Please ensure you have read the guidance before emailing us where possible.

Data Protection

We use the data you provide, such as contact details for individuals at your organisation, in order to allow you to apply and for us to assess your application.

If your grant is successful, we will use this data to check that the grant is being managed appropriately and maintain contact with you.

We are working in Partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund for the LGBT+ Futures: Equity Fund. We will share limited details of successful applicants from the Fund in line with our Grants Data Privacy Notice. More information can be found on the Equity Fund pages on our website.