



In partnership with



CONSORTIUM
for stronger lgbt+ communities

LGBT+ Futures: Equity Fund

Guidance

Version 1.0 • February 2022

consortium.lgbt/equityfund

Introduction

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

Following successful grant giving programmes, which saw distribution of nearly £1m to LGBT+ communities, 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 enabled us to create this LGBT+ Futures: Equity Fund for user-led LGBT+ organisations working with targeted under-represented and under-resourced communities.

The LGBT+ Futures: Equity Fund is available to LGBT+ non-profit groups, organisations and projects that **are led by and for:**

- **D/deaf and/or Disabled LGBT+ People**
- **LBT+ Women**
- **LGBT+ People from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnicities and LGBT+ People of Colour¹**
- **Older LGBT+ People**
- **Trans and Non-Binary People**

Please Note: To be eligible, the **primary purpose** of your organisation or group must be to support one or more of the above communities of focus.

Please read this guidance for the best chance of success.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and the programme will close to new applications on 30th October 2022. 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.

Applicants will hear whether their application has been successful within a maximum **4 months of applying**, but we hope to get you a decision much quicker than that.

If you have any questions about applying, or are in need of support with applying, then please contact our grants team on: grants@consortium.lgbt

¹ We recognise the use of terms such as BAME/PoC reflect a diverse range of people and communities. We use it as inclusively as possible to reflect people from communities who experience racism.

Who can apply?

- Applicants must be an England based **non-profit² group or organisation** that is led **by and for** LGBT+ people in the UK, and specifically working with one of more of the following communities of focus:
 - **D/deaf and/or Disabled LGBT+ People**
 - **LBT+ Women**
 - **LGBT+ People from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnicities and LGBT+ People of Colour³**
 - **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**.
 - 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.
- Existing grant holders who meet the new criteria are eligible to apply.

Applicants should be working according to Consortium's core values of:

- **Accessibility:** Observe, promote and practice good equity principles, enabling access and inclusion.
- **Accountability:** Value each other's diverse perspectives, language and capacity.
- **Collaboration:** Positive, proactive collaboration with other LGBT+ organisations, minimising inefficiencies and conflict without losing individual autonomy.
- **Respect:** Be considerate of the resource, support and insight gained through others and not using this to further own goals to the detriment of other LGBT+ organisations.

² This includes: Registered charities; CIOs; CICs; Non-profit companies (companies limited by share are not eligible); Unincorporated Charitable Associations (e.g. community and voluntary groups with a written constitution).

³ We recognise the use of terms such as BAME/PoC reflect a diverse range of people and communities. We use it as inclusively as possible to reflect people from communities who experience racism.

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.
- Each organisation or group can apply for one organisational grant from this fund (although organisations can also apply for leadership development grants as well when they become available).
- All grants must be **fully spent by August 2023**.
- How long you have to spend your grant will depend on when you make your application during the open period. Applications made towards the anticipated deadline of October 2022 will likely have just 6 months to spend their grants, if awarded. If successful, we will discuss with you how long you want your grant to last.

To keep the application process as fair as possible, our application form requests more information from those applicants who request larger amounts.

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. Organisations should have the following:

- A document which outlines what the group is for and the rules for running it.
- 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.

We do recognise that smaller, grassroots organisations may not have all these structure in place. Please get in touch with our team if your organisation is missing any of the above, but your group meets the criteria and needs funds. We want to remove as many barriers to receiving funding as possible through this Fund.

What can you 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 support, then let us know about it. If there is a piece of development 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.

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, for which separate guidance is available [here](#).

All applicants will need to provide:

- Key contact details.
- Brief details of who you work with.
- Brief details of your work and funding needs.

Applications **under £1,000** only need to provide these details at the application stage. If you are applying for **£500 or less** a member of the grants team would also be happy to take the application details over the phone and complete the form on your behalf.

In addition, applications **from £1,000 to £9,999** will also be asked to provide:

- Legal status of your organisation.
- Some additional detail about what work you will undertake and who will benefit.
- A budget.
- Supporting documents:
 - Annual Accounts or income/expenditure record for new LGBT+ organisations.
 - Recent bank statement.

Applications **from £10,000 to £25,000** will also be asked to provide:

- Additional detail about what work you will undertake and who will benefit.
- A more detailed budget.
- Supporting documents:
 - Constitution, Governing Document or Terms of Reference.
 - Safeguarding Policy.

What help is available?

We aim to make this programme as accessible as possible and our Grants Team are available to provide support and advice with your application. You can contact us on 020 7064 6500 or at: grants@consortium.lgbt. Please ensure you have read the guidance before calling or emailing us if possible.

We can also do a supported application where we help take your answers via a call.

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.

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.

These community assessors will make a recommendation to our community panel, who will make the final decision.

Consortium's staff team may be in touch to ask you 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 will be taken into account 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.

Data Protection

We use the personal 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.