

Key information

Funding area:

England

Status:

Open for applications

Next Application Deadline:

10/08/2009

Full scheme details

Start date:

12/05/2009

Outline:

The Innovation Fund aims to create innovative sporting opportunities enabling an increase in participation in sports, by encouraging existing participants to do more, or by attracting new people to take part in sport. The fund is open to a range of organisations, including voluntary and community sector organisations, with new ideas and solutions which will reach a whole new audience, and provide better, more exciting opportunities to a wider range of people.

Total Fund Value:

£ 5,000,000

Grant Value - minimum:

£ 10,000

Grant Value - maximum:

£ 500,000

Grant Value - notes:

The Innovation Fund will make awards of between £10,000 and £500,000 to between 10 and 20 projects per year. Applicants can apply for multiple years funding, however Sport England do not anticipate that projects will receive funding for a period of more than three years.

Extended Description:

Sport England aim to achieve the following targets by 2012/13:

- One million people doing more sport.
- A 25% reduction in the number of 16-18 year-olds who drop out of at least five sports.
- Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- A measurable increase in people's satisfaction with their experience of sport.
- A major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.

The overall aim of the Innovation Fund is to fund and develop breakthroughs that will transform the way community sport looks and feels in the future. Sport England hope to invest in small-scale but groundbreaking innovations which have the ability to become the scaled-up, widespread activities that deliver high quality community sport in future years.

Projects must help to deliver at least one of Sport England's strategic aims, to:

- **Grow:** getting one million people doing more sport and working with the Youth Sport Trust to offer young people at least five hours of high quality sport a week.
- **Sustain:** increasing participants' satisfaction with their sporting experience, and reducing the number of young people aged 16-18 who drop out of sport.
- **Excel:** improving talent development.

Further Information:

Sport England also have a Small Grants Programme set up to support local community sport projects which seek to increase or sustain participation or develop opportunities for people to excel at their chosen sport.

For details please refer to governmentfunding.org.uk's [Small Grants Programme scheme page](#) (opens new window).

Restrictions:

Under the Innovation Fund, Sport England will **not** fund:

- Individuals, sole traders, or partnerships.
- Projects that do not support the delivery of Sport England's strategy (see 'Extended Description' above).
- Repeat or regular events and existing activities (although Sport England may consider paying for the extra cost of involving new participants).
- Activities that the state has a legal obligation to provide.
- Projects that take place or start before the date of the offer letter, unless prior permission has been granted in writing by Sport England.

- Projects that are similar to past or existing products or programmes that have been delivered elsewhere in the country.
- Projects that do not show the potential to be rolled out or scaled up for cost-effective and sustainable delivery.

Key Criteria:

Applications **must** be, either:

- bona fide and legitimate organisations with a written constitution or statutory powers. This includes sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, education establishments (such as schools, colleges and universities) and national governing bodies of sport; **or**
- private sector organisations that can demonstrate that the project is for the public good or a charitable purpose and not intended primarily for private gain.

Applicants to the Innovation Fund **must** also:

- Be genuinely innovative, as defined in the [Assessment Criteria](#) (opens new window) section of the Sport England website.
- Relate to a [sport currently recognised by Sport England](#) (opens new window).
- Not have already started the project for which funding is sought.

Eligible Expenditure:

Sport England are unlikely to consider capital build projects, but might consider capital projects which include innovative adaptation of sports equipments or facilities to enable greater participation.

Examples of **eligible revenue costs** are:

- salary and on-costs;
- start-up costs and advertising costs;
- recruitment and interview costs;
- travel and subsistence costs for project workers, coaches, volunteers, etc;
- development costs including marketing and promotion;
- training and capacity building, costs for training staff/volunteers, course fees, costs of bringing in trainers;
- partnerships and activity development, such as costs involved in running activities and coaching courses, transport, equipment hire/purchase, staff costs;
- purchase of sports equipment;
- extensions in size of existing revenue projects.

Examples of **ineligible revenue costs** are:

- general running costs, such as ongoing staff costs; council tax; gas, electricity or water bills; facility hire;
- items that only benefit an individual, such as prizes, scholarships, bursaries, personal clothing or equipment or the purchase of tickets for events;
- activities promoting religious beliefs;
- endowments or interest payments;
- goods or services bought or ordered prior to an Award being confirmed;
- sponsorship;
- replacement of existing equipment.

Application Procedure:

The Innovation Fund has a two stage application process. Applicants must first submit an application through the Sport England [Online Investment Centre](#) (opens new window) **along with** an Additional Questions Form (which can be downloaded from the 'Documents and Links' section below) by **5pm 10 August 2009**.

The Sport England website has a list of [Assessment Criteria](#) (opens new window) and full details about the [Application Process](#) (opens new window). Applicants will be notified of the outcome in October 2009, If successful at the first stage applicants will then be incited to plan a full bid.

For further information please refer to the [Sport England website](#) (opens new window), or contact Sport England (see 'Contact Information' below).

Contact Information:

Sport England
2 Loughborough Park
Oakwood Drive
Loughborough
LE11 3QF

Phone:

08458 508 508

Email:

info@sportengland.org

Web:

<http://funding.sportengland.org/> (Opens in new window)