

Better Youth Spaces (BYS) Fund:

Fund and Application
Process Overview



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Session outline

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BYS background

- The Better Youth Spaces (BYS) Fund is designed to bring fast paced benefits to youth organisations and the young people they work with, by funding small scale-capital projects including capital equipment, small refurbishments and other capital projects.
- The fund is aimed to be fully delivered within the financial year.
- The fund is delivered with support from DCMS, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Fund aims

The programme aims to create:

- **Better spaces** leading to opportunities for young people to participate in enrichment activities. I.e. through sports and cultural activities, and benefit from the positive outcomes associated with activities, e.g. better wellbeing.
- **Expanded access** to spaces reaching young people in target areas and with underserved audiences. E.g. a minibus allowing a provider to reach an estate or rural area; a sensory room for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- **Safer spaces** to support young people's safety. I.e. secure entrances, well-lit areas, a refurbishment to create separate changing spaces. Linking to the Safer Streets Mission, and reduction in Violence Against Young Women initiative.
- **Enduring spaces** making them more sustainable in terms of income generation and/or wider community use. I.e. organisations are able to use improved spaces and facilities or facilities are able to use the improvements to attract wider audiences to rent the space when it is not being used by young people.

Fund product



What can I apply for?

Amount

£5,000 - £100,000 per site (not per organisation or Local Authority).

Purpose

Your application can contain requests for both equipment and refurbishment funding, but within this the maximum size of any grant for refurbishment purposes is £50k.

The grant funding is to be used for small scale-capital projects, including capital equipment and vehicles, small refurbishments and other capital projects to help youth organisations to better support the young people they work with.

The project must meet at least one of the fund objectives:

- Improving the reach of activities provided.
- Improving the safety of existing youth facilities.
- Improve the youth sector's capacity and quality to deliver a range of enrichment activities.
- Funding priority areas on the basis of youth need.
- Improving the financial sustainability of youth facilities.

Length of Grant

All grant monies must be spent, evidenced and paid by the End of Grant date, which will be agreed with each grantee. The maximum timeframe permitted will be up to 30th January 2026.

Eligibility criteria



Am I eligible? - In addition to meeting one of the funds objectives:

- Charities registered with the Charity Commission; Not-for-profit companies (including Community Interest Companies (CICs) and Companies Limited by Guarantee (CLGs) with dividend, asset and mission lock) registered with Companies House; Local Authorities (where they provide youth services); Uniformed organisations; and Community Benefit Societies.
- Be based and working within one of our 42 priority locations selected by the government, based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).
- The project must meet at least one of the fund objectives.
- Working with children and young people, and at least 50% of provision is for children/ young people.

**Where the young people have special educational needs or disabilities, are leaving care, or considered 'at risk' or vulnerable, we may fund up to the age of 25 years.*

Eligibility criteria



Am I eligible? - cont:

- Providing a significant offering of open access youth provision for children and young people aged 11 to 18 years*.
- Have been actively operating for at least two years and have at least one set of annual financial accounts.
- Have a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.
- Have at least two unrelated governing body directors/ trustees/ committee members.
- Comply with SIB's Safeguarding Policy which is available on the Better Youth Spaces website.
- Can cash flow the project from own resources within 1-4 months of approval (to be agreed during the grant set up).

**Where the young people have special educational needs or disabilities, are leaving care, or considered 'at risk' or vulnerable, we may fund up to the age of 25 years.*

Eligibility criteria (cont.)

The following sectors and organisations are not eligible for Better Youth Spaces:

- Schools and PTA's
- Colleges
- Universities and Student Unions
- Hospitals
- Multi academy trusts
- Companies Limited by Shares
- Any refurbishment work that doesn't have the appropriate plans, consents and permissions already in place at the time of application.

Funding purpose



What can I use the funding for?

The main principles of what you can apply for are:

- It is classed as capital expenditure*
- It meets the fund objectives
- It is not for routine maintenance or repair
- It is not for “like for like” replacement
- The expenditure was after the date on your grant agreement. i.e. not for any retrospective costs that were before this date
- It does not include input VAT reclaimable by you from HMRC

Please ensure you read the detailed list of eligible and ineligible expenditure on our website before applying to the fund as any applications for ineligible expenditure (or the component of the application that is ineligible) will be rejected.

Funding purpose (cont.)

Equipment

For equipment to be classed as capital and therefore eligible, all equipment items that make up the grant of £5k or more must each be £2,000 or greater in value.

Multiples of identical (i.e. the exact same) items with a cumulative value of £2,000 or greater purchased in a single transaction are also included as eligible for this.

Small-Scale Refurbishment

You must have all the appropriate plans, consents and permissions already in place at the time of application. Failure to have all consents in place will result in your application being rejected, or your funding offer withdrawn.

The funding cannot support projects that are part of a wider refurbishment project. I.e. the total refurbishment project must cost £50k or less on a stand-alone basis, and not have dependencies within a larger & higher costs refurbishment or building project.

Application process



Supporting documents

Along with your application form, you will be asked to provide:

- Your most recent set of annual financial accounts.
- Quotes/ product listings to support your funding request and demonstrate value for money, as per the requirements set out in the Fund Guidelines.
- Your governing document - only required for Uniformed Organisations and Community Benefit Societies.
- Your Title Deeds or Signed Lease Agreement - only required for refurbishment projects.
- All relevant permissions and consents, as per the requirements set out in the Fund Guidelines - only required for refurbishment projects.
- A photo of the building/ land and space being refurbished - only required for refurbishment projects.
- A copy of your bank statement (no longer than one month old) demonstrating insufficient cash - only required if you will struggle to cashflow the full grant.

Payments

- All grants will be paid in arrears, and on receipt and approval of a payment request form and submission of evidence of eligible spend.
- This means that once your Grant Offer Letter has been signed, you must spend the funds, submit a payment request and eligible evidence of spend to SIB. Once your evidence has been and is deemed eligible then SIB will make the grant payment to you.
- Payments will be made in one single payment once the grant has been spent. I.e. once the equipment has been purchased or the capital works have been fully completed.
- In exceptional cases, where the grantee does not have sufficient cash to cover the cost of the grant, tranche drawdowns (still in arrears) may be agreed. In these cases, grantees must provide, at the point of application, a bank statement (no older than one month) demonstrating insufficient cash and reserves.
- Grants must be spent, evidenced and paid out by 30th January 2026 or earlier, as agreed in your Offer Letter.

Next steps

- Applications are not yet open: We will be announcing application dates shortly, so keep an eye on our website and social media for more information.
- Applications for equipment will be accepted and assessed on a rolling basis, whilst applications for refurbishment will have a short, fixed window to apply.
- All grants must be spent, evidenced and paid out by 30th January 2026 or earlier so you must be ready to mobilise within this period. You will be expected to cash flow the project from own resources within 1- 4 months of approval (to be agreed during the grant set up).

QUESTIONS?

We're happy to help with any queries you may have, so please get in touch with us at the email address below:

- [Social Investment Business – YYS@sibgroup.org.uk](mailto:BYS@sibgroup.org.uk)

THANKS FOR LISTENING!