



Better Futures Fund – Round 1 – FAQ

1. What is meant by a Social Outcomes Partnership (SOP) related to child poverty outcomes?

A Social Outcomes Partnership is a collaboration between organisations, such as public bodies, charities, social enterprises, commissioners, investors and other partners, in which funding is linked to achieving agreed, measurable outcomes. For the Better Futures Fund, the proposed work must have a clear link to improving outcomes for children, young people and families and addressing child poverty in England. Full guidance can be found [here](#).

2. What types of organisations and partnerships can participate?

Applications may involve charities, social enterprises, public-sector organisations, private organisations, commissioners, investors and delivery partners working collaboratively. A third-sector organisation partnering with a corporate may therefore be suitable, provided the partnership meets the Round 1 eligibility requirements (found [here](#)) and has the necessary outcomes-based approach and relevant experience.

3. Does a Round 1 application need to include previous SOP experience?

Yes. For Round 1, the lead applicant or at least one named partner must be able to demonstrate a track record of participating in a previous SOP related to child poverty outcomes. Organisations without this experience may wish to register their interest [here](#) for future rounds.

4. Can an organisation join an existing consortium or partnership?

Organisations can apply as part of a partnership or consortium, with partners taking roles such as commissioner, provider or intermediary. Any proposed partnership must meet the eligibility requirements, including the relevant previous SOP experience and the capacity to deliver an outcomes-based programme.

5. Can existing projects or services be expanded using Better Futures Fund support?

Round 1 is intended for relatively well-developed projects, partnerships or service models that are ready to begin delivery within six months of funding approval. Applicants should explain how the proposed activity, expansion or development would operate through an eligible SOP and contribute to child poverty outcomes.

6. What counts as match funding, and can existing funding be used?

Round 1 requires credible access to match funding of at least an equivalent amount to the funding requested. Match funding may come from sources such as public bodies, charitable grants or other funders. Applicants should explain the current position of any match-funding discussions and provide further evidence as requested during assessment.

7. Do match funders need to have made a firm commitment before an EOI is submitted?

Applicants should have a well-advanced plan and credible access to the required match funding. Where discussions are ongoing rather than formally committed, applicants should clearly describe the status of those discussions and their plans for securing the funding.

8. Is there a minimum or maximum amount that can be applied for?

The funding amount should reflect the scale and requirements of the proposed project, the outcomes to be achieved and the available match funding. Applicants should set out their anticipated funding requirement in the application.

9. How is Better Futures Fund funding expected to be delivered?

The fund supports outcomes-based programmes in which funding is linked to agreed outcomes and measurable improvements in people's lives. The detailed funding, contracting and payment arrangements will be considered as eligible proposals progress through the assessment and development process.

10. What are the expectations around sustainability beyond the funding period?

Applicants should consider how the project or intervention could be sustained beyond the funding period, including potential future commissioners or funding sources. Applications that reach assessment stage will be asked to share sustainability plans or longer-term funding considerations that are currently known.

11. What is the application and decision-making process?

The EOI is an initial eligibility stage. Applicants who meet the requirements may be invited to develop a full application with members of the Grant Assessment team. Full applications will be assessed against criteria including theory of change, contract design, learning, impact and readiness, and will be presented to a Grants Committee for final funding decisions.

12. When will successful Round 1 projects begin delivery and when can funding be drawn down?

Round 1 projects are expected to be sufficiently developed to begin delivery within six months of funding approval. The precise delivery timetable and funding drawdown arrangements will be confirmed as the application and contracting process progresses.

13. Can additional commissioners or delivery partners be added later?

Applicants should provide details of known partners and their roles at EOI stage, while recognising that some arrangements may not yet be finalised. Any changes would be subject to the programme's assessment and contracting requirements.

14. Does delivery have to take place in England?

The proposed project must primarily deliver services and outcomes for children, young people and/or families in England.

15. What types of child poverty outcomes are relevant?

Relevant outcomes may include reducing the number of children experiencing poverty, for example through work relating to parental employment, family or financial stability, and housing, or reducing the impact of poverty through areas such as school readiness, educational engagement, health and wellbeing, safety, youth employment and contact with the care or criminal justice systems.

16. Will local authorities or combined authorities be notified about applications in their area?

Applicants should consider local partnerships and stakeholder engagement as part of their proposal, particularly where delivery is place-based. The process for notifying local authorities or combined authorities that are not already part of a proposed partnership should be confirmed with the Better Futures Fund team.

17. Can nationally established models be delivered across multiple local areas?

Potentially, provided the proposal demonstrates how it responds to local needs, involves relevant local stakeholders and commissioners, and delivers measurable outcomes for children, young people and families in England.

18. What support will be available for organisations preparing for future rounds?

Future rounds may be broader than Round 1, but details of eligibility, funding arrangements and support will be confirmed in due course. Organisations that are not ready for Round 1 can register their interest [here](#).

19. Are Round 1 organisations eligible to apply to future rounds?

Eligibility for future rounds will depend on the criteria and funding arrangements announced for those rounds.

20. Can a successful Round 1 organisation apply with a different project in a future round?

This will depend on the eligibility criteria and arrangements for the future round. Further information will be provided when future rounds are developed.