

Frequently Asked Questions for Eligible Applicants of Better Futures Fund (Round 1)

1. Assessment criteria

Q: Where can I find the assessment criteria, and how will applications be assessed?

A: Assessment will cover six areas: 1 - Cohort; 2 - Service offering; 3 - Outcomes, payment and VfM; 4 - SOP mechanism; 5 - Deliverability; 6 - Wider impact and legacy. The information gathered from applicants in each of these areas will be used to inform the overall balance of the portfolio. The committee will be seeking to balance risk, ambition and deliverability across the portfolio. Applicants should ensure they provide clear, relevant evidence to support their proposals.

2. Match funding

Q: What are the match funding requirements for BFF Round 1?

A: Applicants are expected to have a well-advanced plan to secure match funding from sources such as public bodies, charitable funds and other sources, for at least an amount equivalent to the funding requested from BFF. Applicants should clearly set out their proposed match funding sources, the amounts expected from each source, the status of those contributions and how the match funding will support delivery of the proposed project.

3. Scale of funding requests

Q: Is there a maximum award available under BFF Round 1, and how should applicants justify the scale of their funding request?

A: Applicants should ensure that their funding request is proportionate to the proposed project and supported by a clear rationale. Applications should demonstrate how the requested funding, alongside match funding, will support delivery, achieve the intended outcomes for children and contribute to the objectives of BFF. Funding decisions will be made in the context of a competitive Round 1 process and the overall objectives of the Fund.

4. Fund priorities and scale of impact

Q: How will BFF balance the number of Social Outcomes Partnerships (SOPs) supported, the number of children reached and the amount of match funding generated?

A: These are important considerations for the Grant Committee in assessing the potential contribution of projects within the funding portfolio to BFF's objectives. The relative balance between them will be considered as the Fund's understanding of the

project pipeline develops. Further information on the Fund's emerging priorities will be shared where possible.

5. Outcomes rate cards

Q: What should applicants consider when developing their outcomes rate cards?

A: Applicants should provide details of their proposed outcomes rate card, explaining how the selected outcomes relate to the impact of poverty on children and how the proposed pricing has been developed. Applicants should demonstrate that their proposed approach is informed by relevant evidence and engagement with local commissioners or co-funders, and is appropriate for a project that is ready to progress towards delivery.

6. Sustainability and long-term impact

Q: How should projects balance improving outcomes for children with the wider sustainability and legacy ambitions of BFF?

A: Both are important. BFF aims to address not only the symptoms of child poverty but also its structural root causes. Applicants should explain how their proposed project will improve outcomes for children and demonstrate its potential to contribute to longer-term, sustainable change. Applications should also consider how learning, partnerships and delivery models could support lasting impact beyond the immediate project period.

7. Social Outcomes Partnerships and sector support

Q: Will Round 1 projects be expected to support other organisations developing SOPs for future BFF rounds?

A: Yes. As a condition of Round 1 funding, projects will be expected to make themselves available to support the development of future BFF rounds. This may include contributing to webinars, sharing learning and participating in peer-learning events. Applicants should consider how they could share their experience and learning with other organisations as part of their wider contribution to the Fund.

8. Evaluation and learning

Q: What are the expectations for evaluation, evidence and learning?

A: Applicants should set out their proposed approach to evaluation and learning, including how they intend to monitor progress, assess outcomes and use evidence to inform delivery and improvement. Applications should explain the methods proposed, including any feasibility work or testing, where relevant, and how evaluation and learning activities will be resourced. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to generating and sharing learning that can inform the development of SOPs and the wider BFF programme.

9. Full application requirements

Q: What additional information will applicants need to provide at the full application stage?

A: The full application will provide an opportunity to expand on the information submitted at the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage and provide further evidence to support the proposal. Applicants should be prepared to develop their responses across the relevant assessment areas, including the proposed delivery model, expected outcomes and impact, match funding, financial assumptions, evaluation and learning, and the project's contribution to BFF objectives.