

# Shared History Fund Frequently Asked Questions

## What can be covered?

**What consideration is given in the assessment process to ensuring the project is linked to marking/celebrating the centenary of Northern Ireland?**

The fund is designed to support projects that encourage engagement with the history of the Centenary of Northern Ireland in line with the Principles for Remembering. We will not support projects that do not demonstrate substantive engagement with the historical context.

**As the project is linked to the 100 years of Northern Ireland, what consideration will be given to projects that major on the Ulster Covenant and Easter Rising, both of which predate 1921?**

The fund will not support stand-alone projects about events predating 1921, however, it is expected applications to the fund will explore the broader context of that period including the events referenced above.

**How would you view an application that explored a specific historical incident that occurred in Northern Ireland during the 1970s?**

We are asking that projects address the centenary in the round rather than focusing on one specific event.

**Could an artist create an artwork, or publication like a comic?**

Creative responses would be eligible as part of a broader exploration of the period.

## Local authorities

**We are a Northern Ireland local government public authority. Can multiple applications be submitted or are we limited to one application per organisation?**

We ask that organisations prioritise their own projects and only make one application to the Shared History Fund.

**As a predominantly Nationalist Council in Northern Ireland agreeing a civic approach may be difficult. However, as part of an application would it be possible to seek monies to administer a small grants fund to support local community events in our Council area?**

The establishment of third party/small grants funds is not eligible under the Shared History Fund.

**As a local authority we are still engaged in the process of seeking agreement between parties on a shared programme. We may not be in a position to have the full details of the programme by 15 January. What level of detail is needed in the application? Eg. can it say 'programme of talks' or do you need all speakers and titles named?**

We recognise the relatively quick turn-around from launch to application closing date for this fund and we ask that applicants provide as much detail as possible. Where names and titles are unavailable, it would be helpful if you could share the types of speakers you will be

pursuing and the general topics you wish to cover. If successful, detail can be agreed post award.

### **Making multiple applications and partnerships**

**Does each local history society that wishes to participate need to make a separate application or can an umbrella body make one larger application on behalf of a number of societies? And if so would the participating societies need to be named in the application?**

We welcome applications from umbrella bodies representing a range of organisations. The more detail you can provide in the application the better. If you cannot name all the organisations, you should highlight the number of organisations you intend to involve.

**Is it okay to submit joint applications with other groups?**

You can submit an application in partnership with other groups. You should be clear that the application is being made as a partnership. It would be helpful if you could set out what each partner has agreed to do and how you will manage the partnership throughout the project.

**Can you be named as a partner on one or more projects and make an application as a lead partner as well?**

You can be involved as a partner in more than one project, however, you must be clear about your capacity to input into each project and to outline the exact nature of your contribution.

### **Geographical spread**

**Are there areas, particularly council areas, in which you would welcome applications?**

We want to have a balanced portfolio of applications that represent a wide variety of themes, different types of organisation, size of projects, types of activity and broad geographical spread. We have not identified any area as being a higher priority than others.

**Can a local project, in an area with a strong history of Shared Neighbourhood, be recognised as having a high strategic impact beyond its local area?**

The application form should provide an opportunity for you to make that case.

### **Outside Northern Ireland**

**Can there be cross border activity? Can there be a cross-border spend?**

We cannot accept applications from organisations based in the Republic of Ireland. The fund can however support the costs involved in a cross border project.

**Can the project be disseminated beyond the UK eg. US as to promote Northern Ireland Centenary?**

Dissemination beyond UK is fine. It is unlikely that the fund will support a project where a large proportion of the costs are for overseas travel.

**We are a Northern Ireland based NGO that provides education programmes in Belgium for all sectors in Northern Ireland. Can this fund support travel costs for participants and speakers to/from Northern Ireland-Belgium?**

The fund can support the costs of running a programme of activity. It is unlikely that the fund will support a project where a large proportion of the costs are for overseas travel.

**What about engaging the Northern Ireland diaspora, global reach? I am collaborating with a local organisation but am just curious if you have given any thought to this.**

Working with the Northern Ireland diaspora is something we envisage projects addressing, particularly via digital means.

## **Process**

**How is the funding distributed? In previous projects, we have had to spend monies and then reclaim. Is it possible to receive staged payments?**

For grants between £3,000 and £10,000, 100% of the grant will be paid upfront. Spend will be reconciled at the end of the project.

For grants between £10,000 and £100,000, 50% of the grant will be paid upfront. 40% will be paid when you spend the first 50% and we will retain 10% until the project has completed.

**Do you have a rough idea of what the application numbers and success rate will be?**

We have put a notional figure of £300,000 for grants between £3,000 and £10,000 and £700,000 for grants between £10,000 and £100,000. We want to have a balanced portfolio of projects across geography, themes, type of organisations and size of project. It is possible that we may flex this rough split to respond to demand eg if there were lots of smaller applications then we'd look at expanding the amount available for smaller grants to ensure better success rates for the smaller organisations we think are likely to apply at this level. We believe that there will be sufficient interest in the fund to mean that there will be competition for support.

**When do you anticipate making the announcement about which projects you are able to fund? Just thinking about potential start date for project.**

We hope to make decisions in February 2021. It is likely that projects will be able to start in late March. They should complete by 31 March 2022.

**Can you apply for administrative costs?**

You can apply for admin costs to support any project that you are delivering.

**Do we have to submit a Project Enquiry form as a first step in the application process? When I registered on your website it appeared that was the case.**

You don't have to submit a Project Enquiry Form.

**We have applied to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant of £9,900 to help finance a project which is costing £20K. Are we still eligible to apply to the Shared History Fund for the balance of the overall costs?**

We are not expecting the Shared History Fund to partner fund projects that have secured grants from other funds we are managing. The timing of the current funds available are also unlikely to be compatible.

**Can Landscape Partnerships Schemes already receiving National Lottery Heritage Fund apply for additional funding from Shared History Fund?**

We are not expecting projects already in receipt of funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to apply for support from the Shared History Fund for the same projects.

## Evaluation

**Will a formal (published) evaluation be required and if so can we apply for evaluation costs?**

You can apply for evaluation costs. In the event of an award, we will let you know about plans for broader programme evaluation.

## Eligible costs

**We have one Admin/Finance Manager that works two days per week. Would this same individual working an additional two days per week count as new staff (we have worked this way on previous National Lottery Heritage Fund funded projects)?**

Additional working hours for existing staff could be covered.

**Would it be possible to contract a consultant who had undertaken similar framework previously to speed project given time constraints?**

It's up to you to construct your project in a way that best meets your needs. We would like organisations to own their projects and wouldn't want disproportionate costs to go towards a consultant, but recognise that we need to be practical.

**It is noted that capital items will not be funded per say. Would the repair/conservation of ornate lighting on an historic bridge/feature be eligible if all stakeholders provided permission and if so would the fund also cover the electrical wiring and installation of same? Would it cover for additional floodlighting of an historic bridge/feature and cover costs of new lighting and electrical installation?**

The Shared History Fund cannot cover capital costs other than digitisation costs.

**Can you expand on the type/level of capital costs which may be permitted? If they are appropriate to the project will they be considered? In the application it only states that digitisation costs would be acceptable under capital costs.**

Digitisation costs are the only capital costs that are permitted under the fund. Digitisation costs could cover things such as the digitisation of records so that originals can be better cared for and the digital records shared with a wider audience.

**Is it only education or history projects that will be supported? We'd like to run a fun day to celebrate 100 years.**

The Shared History Fund will support projects that engage with the history of the Centenary of Northern Ireland, in line with the Principles for Remembering. It cannot fund costs for

things that do not demonstrate substantive engagement with the historical context and a fun day could not be supported.