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Nothe Fort, Weymouth
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NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Funded Organisations and Project Grants

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our funding programme for arts, museums and libraries project.

Published: September 2023



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THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

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What's Inside

This Information Sheet provides **additional information** for your Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants application.

Make sure that you have also read the main **Guidance for applicants**. See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

In this information sheet, we will talk about the following:

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Introduction

This information sheet sets out the criteria for National Portfolio Organisations' (NPOs'), Investment Principle Support Organisations (IPSOs), Transfer organisations and Music Hubs' (MHs') eligibility to make National Lottery Project Grants applications and their involvement in Project Grants applications made by others.

Project Grants restrictions

There are restrictions on NPOs, IPSOs and Transfer organisations applying to **Major Projects, the Touring projects strand (Regional, national and international)** and **Place Partnerships strands** of National Lottery Project Grants.

The restrictions below will apply from 1 April 2023-31 March 2026.

We don't count any Expressions of Interest (EOI) or full applications you made before 1 April 2023.

NPOs/IPSOs/Transfer organisations:

- Can apply to **Major Projects, Touring strand (Regional, national and international)** and **Place Partnerships**
- Can make a maximum of 2 full applications (funded or not funded) within the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2026, across any combination of these strands.
- For Major Projects and Place Partnerships, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) can only be resubmitted once before any full application is made.
- For Major Projects and Place Partnerships, if your full application is not funded, you can't submit another EOI for the same project.
- We decide which period (22-23 or 23-26) your application falls into based on when you submit your EOI.

Any project an NPO, IPSO or Transfer organisation applies for must be clearly additional to their funded programme.

For more information on each of these strands please see our [Project Grants information sheets](#).

Who is treated as a National Portfolio Organisation for the purposes of eligibility?

National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) and Investment Principle Support Organisation (IPSO) – The organisation that holds the National Portfolio Organisation and Investment Principles Support Organisation Funding Agreement with the Arts Council

Transfer Organisation – The organisation that holds the Transfer funding agreement with the Arts Council.

Consortium members

Where we fund a consortium through the National Portfolio programme, our NPO grant agreements are made with the lead organisation. This lead organisation is the accountable body for the grant, and it is the organisation that has restrictions on its eligibility for Project Grants.

Other members of the consortium are technically eligible to apply for all types of Project Grants as the lead applicant if they wish. We review any applications from NPO consortium members on a case-by-case basis and consider the strength of the activity being proposed and how it adds value to what we already invest in an organisation through their consortium's NPO grant.

Local authorities

Local authority NPOs are eligible to apply to Project Grants for one of the three Project Grants strands as outlined above. Local Authority NPOs may also be able to apply for other types of projects, eg where a specific venue/department is the NPO and another venue or department wishes to apply to Project Grants to support activity that is completely unrelated to the organisation's NPO funding agreement. Local authority NPOs should contact their Relationship Manager if they are unsure about their eligibility for Project Grants.

Libraries and library services

Library NPOs may also be eligible to make more than one application in this period, for example if the local authority or library service is the NPO, and a branch library wishes to make an application to Project Grants. Library NPOs should contact their Relationship Manager if they are unsure about their eligibility for Project Grants.

Please see our [Library projects and Universal Library Offers information sheet](#) for more details. You can find this in our Project Grants Guidance library under our Time limited priorities section or under the Types of projects section.

NPOs that host Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs)

SSNs support the development, use and wider understanding of collections by sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources with people working with collections. Organisations can apply to Project Grants for activity that involves Subject Specialist Network activity.

Some Subject Specialist Networks are hosted by NPOs.

An NPO can apply specifically for Subject Specialist Network activity on behalf of its wider Network. NPOs applying in this way can apply for any amount, and any application for SSN activity does not count towards the restriction of one application during this period. The host NPO should contact us in the first instance to confirm their eligibility to apply for Subject Specialist Network activity.

NPOs as project partners

We recognise that NPOs can add considerable value to an applicant's proposed activity, bringing experience, skills and resources. They can share knowledge and help in the professional and talent development of the applicant organisation and to those delivering and participating in the activity.

We can accept applications where an NPO is a project partner. NPOs can support the delivery of a project, or be a project partner, where the proposed activity does not duplicate activities funded in their National Portfolio funding agreement. There is no restriction on the value of the request.

The non-NPO lead applicant representing a consortium or partnership will be solely accountable to us for any funded activity and to deliver the project in accordance with our terms and conditions.

Further guidance on what we expect from lead applicants can be found in the [Partnership agreements guidance on our website](#).

What we look for in an application involving an NPO as a partner

When we review an application where an NPO is a partner, we look for evidence that the leadership and accountability of the activity remains within the non-NPO applicant's control, and that delivery and management of the activity is not likely to be compromised or unduly influenced by the NPOs involvement.

If an NPO is either a formal or informal partner, we will consider how this may affect the finance and management strengths and weakness in the application.

Partnership agreements and partnership funding

If the NPO is a key delivery partner the lead applicant should consider whether a formal partnership agreement is needed. A partnership agreement will help to clearly define the expectations on the NPO for delivery of the activity and provide a clear definition of roles and responsibilities.

Match funding

In some cases, with our permission, an NPO may provide match funding for a Project Grants application. Any cash contribution made by an NPO would be additional to any minimum match funding expectation from sources other than the Arts Council and must be appropriate to the delivery of the NPO's business plan that we have agreed.

There are two exceptions:

- if the applicant can very clearly show that cash funding from a partner NPO is from sources other than the Arts Council. This can include box office splits, commissions and grants from other ringfenced funds etc.
- NPOs providing support-in-kind: goods or services provided for free or at a reduced rate.

In both situations NPO contributions can contribute towards any minimum match funding expectation.

Music Education Hubs and Project Grants

A [Music Education Hub](#) (Hub) is a partnership, led by a Hub Lead Organisation, that is responsible for supporting, delivering and enabling access to music education activity for children and young people within a local area.

Partnerships can include schools, early years and other education providers, local authorities, community music organisation and other regional and national youth music organisations and industry, Hub Lead Organisation and their Hub partners understand and respond to local context to support the needs and interests of all children and young people.

We deliver Hub funding from, and on behalf of, the Department for Education (DfE). [The National Plan for Music Education](#), published in 2022, outlines the vision, aims and strategic functions for Hubs.

Music Education Hubs applying to Project Grants

We can only support applications made by Music Hub Lead Organisations, on behalf of their Music Education Hub, for projects and activity that is not required or already funded as part of their Hub funding agreement with the Arts Council. This also applies where a Hub is a partner involved in the delivery of the activity.

Applications should clearly explain how the proposed activity is additional to and/or enhances the offer that is already made possible through the Hub's core revenue grant funding from the DfE.

If you're a Music Hub Lead Organisation you should read our [Children, young people and learning information sheet](#) under Types of projects in our Guidance library. This explains what we can and can't support in relation to the school curriculum and activity during the school day.

We would expect any Music Education Hub making an application to Project Grants to talk to their Relationship Manager about their plans before doing so.

Music Education Hubs as project partners

We recognise that many applicants to Project Grants may be part of Music Education Hub partnerships in one or more locations. The involvement and naming of a Hub and/or Hub Lead Organisation in a Project Grant application can add considerable value to an applicant's proposed activity. It brings experience, skills and resources. Hubs also provide vital strategic insight into their locality, and their involvement can help ensure that children and young people continue to be supported beyond the life of a project.

If a Hub will be involved in the delivery of your project, please read the section [‘Music Education Hubs applying to Project Grants’](#) to check what we need to know in your application.

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You can also Live Chat with our customer services team by clicking the icon on our Project Grants page on our website.