



Dorset Moon Silent Disco by Shush Events,
Nothe Fort, Weymouth
Photo © b-side festival

© Ivor Bone Photography

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Funded organisations and Project Grants

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our open-access funding programme for individual practitioners, arts organisations, libraries, and museum projects.

Published: November 2021

Updated: August 2023



Awarding funds from
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

artscouncil.org.uk

What's Inside

This information sheet relates to Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants.

See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

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

Funded organisations and Project Grants	3
Project Grants restrictions	3
Who is treated as a National Portfolio Organisation for the purposes of eligibility?	4
NPOs that host Subject Specialist Networks	5
NPOs as project partners	5
What we look for in an application involving an NPO as a partner	6
Partnership agreements and partnership funding	6
Match funding	6
Music Education Hubs and Project Grants	7
Music Education Hubs applying to Project Grants	8
Music Education Hubs as project partners	8
Contact us	9

Funded organisations and Project Grants

This information sheet sets out the criteria for National Portfolio Organisations' (NPOs'), Investment Principle Support Organisations (IPSOs), Transfer organisations and Music Education Hubs' (MEHs') eligibility to make Arts Council 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 **Nationally Significant Projects, Touring** 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 **Nationally Significant Projects, Touring** and **Place Partnerships**
- Can make a maximum of 2 full applications (successful or unsuccessful) within the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2026, across any combination of these strands
- For Nationally Significant Projects and Place Partnerships, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) can only be resubmitted once before any full application is made
- For Nationally Significant Projects and Place Partnerships, if your full application is unsuccessful 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.

NPOs that host Subject Specialist Networks

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 must be in addition to any minimum match funding required 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. See our Support in kind [information sheet](#) for more detail

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

Music Education Hubs and Project Grants

A [Music Education Hub](#) is a collection of organisations working in a local area, to create joined up music education provision for children and young people, both in and out of school. We provide funding from the Department for Education to support these hubs to carry out their work.

The core role of Music Education Hubs is to build on existing music services to:

- ensure that every child aged 5 – 18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-week class ensemble teaching programmes, with weekly tuition on the same instrument for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term)
- provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage
- ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people
- develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area

Most hubs will also deliver against one or more of three extension roles:

- 1) To offer Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum
- 2) To provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes
- 3) To provide access to large scale and/or high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and/or venues. This may include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/ carers and students

[The National Plan for Music Education](#) outlines the vision for Music Education Hubs.

Music Education Hubs applying to Project Grants

We can only support applications made by Music Education Hubs (or anyone working with a hub as a project partner) for projects that are:

- a) additional to their core responsibilities and extension roles; or
- b) clearly deliver against extension role 3:
 - to provide access to large scale and/or high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and/or venues.

Applications to support this extension role should demonstrate how the proposed project is of larger scale or of higher quality than the hub is otherwise able to provide.

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 Music Education Hubs 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.

The non-hub 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.

Contact us

Phone: 0161 934 4317
Email: enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk
Website: artscouncil.org.uk
Post: Arts Council England
The Hive, 49 Lever Street
Manchester
M1 1FN

You can also Livechat with our customer services team by clicking the icon on our Project Grants page on our website: artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants