

Community Health Equity Manchester (CHEM) FAQ document

We have pulled together this list of queries that we have received in relation to the Fund, from the information sessions and individual questions. We hope it is useful –please do get in touch if there are outstanding questions and we'll do our best to answer them.

Scope

Can you fund a completely new project?

The fund aims to support organisations to continue and/or build on what they are already doing to support the specific priority groups. You can use the funding to build on the work you already do, which may mean your application contains some new elements. Please read the Specification document and Guidance form for information.

Do all clients/service users need to live in Manchester? What if you are working with the homeless in the city centre?

Yes, the people that you support must be based in Manchester Ward Boundaries. We welcome applications to work with homeless individuals in Manchester, as long as they meet one or more of the listed priority groups.

Eligibility

If we're working with schools that are based in the Manchester wards, would we still be applicable if our organisation is not based in Manchester?

As long as you can evidence that your project or activity will directly work with and positively impact Manchester residents relating to one or more of the target groups, then it would be applicable. While we are most interested in high quality outcomes for Manchester residents rather than where an organisation is from, we will prioritise Manchester based organisations for most of the funding.

I recently set up my CIC, but before this was commissioned to do the same work as an individual and can show that I have been doing this for a minimum of 12 months. Can I still apply?

Unfortunately, we cannot accept applications from individuals. Eligible organisations must have worked with the target group(s) for 12 months or more. Organisations recommended for funding may be asked to provide evidence if this is not clear from the application (such as an impact report).

If you can evidence your CIC's experience in working with the specific target group for a minimum of 12 months, then that would be applicable. If the organisation is completely new and there is no evidence of the organisation supporting your target group for a minimum of 12 months, then it is not eligible. You will need to provide evidence that shows that this is the case, such as an impact report.

Will you prefer organisations that are representative of their target audience, to ensure cultural competency?

We do ask if organisations are led by Communities that Experience Racial Inequality, this is to help us understand if some groups face barriers to grant applications. However this will not be used to score your application.

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You will be scored on why you have chosen to work with your specific group, as we want to know what experience you have in supporting them. Lived experience is not a requirement, but you do need to understand the needs of the specific group you want to support. Please look at the Specification document for information.

We already receive Manchester City Council funding for our general charity work, would we be eligible to apply if we can show that the CHEM money will be additional?

Please see the guidance document. You would be eligible to apply, but please articulate the extra value that the money will give to your organisation and the groups you aim to support.

Project

Do you have any examples of successful projects or activities for this fund?

This is the first year that the Community Health Equity Manchester fund has been delivered, so unfortunately, we do not have any examples of successful projects. The breadth and types of activity are wide, and we would expect an organisation to know what it wants to do. Successful projects should focus on which group they will work with, build on what they already do as an organisation, and show how the project will bring people together on a regular basis.

I haven't checked the application form yet; does it ask about project sustainability? Will we have a better chance of success if we can show that the project will be sustainable after funding?

We do not ask about project sustainability in the form, as we understand that due to the short timescales and funding this may not be achievable.

Do we need to show how the project or activity is environmentally conscious?

It would be great if submitted applications have an environmental benefit as well as meeting the aims of the funding, but including this is not a requirement or part of the scoring criteria.

Budget

Will I have more chance of success if I ask for less money? Will I have less of a chance if I ask for the full amount?

Less expensive projects will not have more chance of being successful. Applications will be scored based on their value for money, meaning that costs must be realistic and proportionate to the work being undertaken and that will deliver the quality of impact to Manchester residents. and we expect groups to show reasoning for the amount that they are requesting. Don't ask for the maximum amount of money if you don't need it, and similarly don't feel like you cannot apply for the full amount if you do need it.

Evidence

How can we evidence that we have been doing work in Manchester for priority groups for a minimum of 12 months?

If you have been formally constituted for over 12 months this should be evidenced in your governing document. However, if you have only recently been constituted, you can evidence experience if you have been delivering activities or supporting your target group for a minimum of 12 months. Examples of evidence include an impact report, governing documents, evidence of activity from online such as website or Facebook pages.

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Can you please explain what you mean by providing evidence when answering application questions?

Evidence convinces the assessment panel that there is an actual need for the project or that your idea will solve a specific problem. You can provide quantitative evidence which is numerically based and can be measured or counted, e.g. service user data, impact reports, or you can provide qualitative evidence to describe or explain, e.g. interviews, observations, forums, feedback. Use evidence that is clear and supports your argument.

What do you mean by outcome indicator tools in the form?

Please see the guidance document. An outcome is the difference you want to achieve as a result of the funding, such as "to see a decrease in isolation of older people in Harpurhey". An indicator is how you will track and gather evidence on the outcome to measure progress, e.g. "50 of our service users are supported to become involved in befriending schemes", or "100% of older people feel more knowledgeable about what's in their local area". A tool is how you will measure and monitor the outcomes and indicators, to understand the difference that you're making., e.g. "using a sign up and attendance sheet to befriending schemes" or "collecting feedback surveys at the start and end of the programme".

Can we use case studies as evidence?

Whilst we haven't specified using case studies or provided room to attach a case study document, you can include case studies if this is the best way to show your work. You would need to include the information as a text answer, so please keep it as short as possible.

Support

Is there any dedicated grant support available?

The Guidance and Specification documents are designed to help you through the application process. If you have any specific needs please get in touch with the team omfunds@manchester.gov.uk. We are able to help with Smart Survey issues and to help you understand what the question is asking, but we cannot help you fill in the application itself.

Our Manchester Funds

You can find the prospectus on the website along with the application link and supporting guidance notes.

If you have any questions about the fund, you can contact omfunds@manchester.gov.uk and one of the team will get back to you.

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You can find information about the support offer available [here](#). You can:

- Ring them on 0333 321 3021
- Email them at info@mcrcommunitycentral.org