

# Fellows future fund

## Introduction

As a Fellow of SSE, you have already demonstrated your passion and commitment to social change. We want to help you to build your organisation's social impact and learn as you do so.

With support from the Social Partners network, SSE is launching a grants fund which aims to support SSE Fellows to grow, understand and communicate their social impact.

We are interested in supporting you to learn about what works. We know that getting funding to experiment and test new ideas, for research and evaluation and for crucial communication work is difficult and so we want to help with this. It doesn't have to be about proving success - we are more interested in helping your organisation learn about what does and doesn't work.

SSE Social Partners will be offering eight £5,000 grants over the next year to support you to learn and to share your learning. These grants will only be available to SSE Fellows.

If you are successful in winning a grant, you will have 12 months to complete delivery of your activity, research or evaluation. After this, we will invite you to present your findings to a supportive audience of our Social Partners and other stakeholders who support social enterprises.

## Should you apply?

We are seeking applications from SSE Fellows who have completed long SSE programmes at least 12 months ago. You will be organisations that are working with disadvantaged communities, and already making a significant difference to people's lives. Your organisation will be established and is likely to have an income of at least £25k.

You will have already demonstrated that the business model can work, and now want to improve on this. The organisation must be based in the UK, but may be working anywhere in the world.

This grant funding is right for you if you are itching for an opportunity;

- to increase your social impact;
- to understand, measure or prove your impact, OR
- to research, experiment or test a new idea or a new area of work, OR
- to really understand the needs of your community, OR
- to understand how your beneficiaries have been using your services, so you can make them better. OR
- to share or communicate the impact and results of your work

We want to support you to do good honest work, evaluation or research that will help you really learn, develop and communicate the great work you're already doing. We are interested in the warts and all story, not the shiny magazine cover.

For example, you could apply for funds:

- to deliver your work in new ways, with different audiences, or in different areas
- to expand your work to build a better evidence base for your approach
- to conduct research into the needs of your beneficiaries or community, what is helping them and what is a block for them, and how your organisation can change that.
- undertake action research, trialling and evaluating new approaches to delivering the change you want to make in the world
- to research or pilot models of measurement and evaluation that may work for your organisation
- to evaluate your work, or part of your work
- to communicate the impact of your work

We want to understand how research, testing, evaluation or getting the word out about your organisation could help your organisation learn and eventually increase its social impact. Our hope is the work funded through this programme will strengthen an evidence base from which to grow your organisation.

## **The Grant**

Eight £5,000 grants are available over the next year. More grants may be made available over time.

You could use the grant to pay for researchers, to trial a new piece of work that you want to evaluate, to expand your work to build a better evidence base, to pay your beneficiaries time to take part in research, to test a new evaluation method, to take time out to experiment or do the research yourself, to present at conferences or events or publish your impact or learning.

You will receive the grant up front, and all we ask in return is that you complete the research or evaluation within 12 months, provide us with a short report about it and present your findings at an event in 2020/21.

## **The Criteria**

### **About you**

- You must be a Fellow of an SSE programme that lasted more than six months and ended at least 12 months ago.
- You may be applying for organisation that you were working with when you were an SSE participant or you may be working with a new organisation

### **About your organisation**

- Your organisation must be a social purpose organisation, which has a restriction on profit, so that most profits are returned for social purposes, and is asset locked. It must be based in the UK, but might be active anywhere in the world.
- Your organisation must be established, with at least £25,000 income in the last year.

## About your grant application

- You may apply for £5,000 for any activity, or research project that supports you to learn more about how you can understand, grow and/or communicate the social impact you are making.
- You will tell us in a short online application about you, your organisation and how you would spend a £5,000 grant.
- Your application should focus on what you want to deliver, research or evaluate, how you plan to do that, what you hope your organisation will learn or what you might do differently.
- There will be 3 rounds over the year. In each round around 6-8 organisations will be chosen to do a short pitch, to our Social Partners. Two to three organisations will be offered a grant.

## How do I apply?

- Complete a brief online application [here](#) at by the deadline of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 1pm.
- You can save your application and return to it at a later date. Just click “Save for later”, and you will be given a unique link to return to your application. Remember to save this link.
- When you’ve completed all the questions, click “Preview” to review your application, then click “Apply”. You’ll receive a copy of your submission by email and will then be redirected to our equalities monitoring form.
- If you have any questions, contact Amber on [amber.sorrell@sse.org.uk](mailto:amber.sorrell@sse.org.uk) or 0207 089 9120.

## For more info:

For more information please go to <https://www.the-sse.org/fellows/>

If you need advice on your application, or if this document is formatted in a way that is not accessible to you contact Amber on [amber.sorrell@sse.org.uk](mailto:amber.sorrell@sse.org.uk) or 0207 089 9120.

## Complaints

If you wish to make a complaint, please see our Complaints Procedure: <https://www.the-sse.org/complaints>