

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 deepen your organisation's social impact and learn as you do so. With support from the Social Partners network, SSE has launched a grants fund that aims to support SSE Fellows to better understand, grow and/or communicate their social impact.

Securing funding to experiment and test new ideas is difficult and we want to help with this. Your application 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 grants of £5,000 to support you to consider how to deepen your social impact, and to share these learnings. If you are successful in winning a grant, you will have 12 months to complete delivery of this initiative. After this, we will invite you to present your findings to a supportive audience of Social Partners and other stakeholders who support social enterprises.

The Grant

Overview

The grant is only available to SSE Fellows (graduates of a six month or longer programme) who graduated at least 12 months prior to the application round. It can be used towards any aspect of an initiative that will expand or deepen your impact. For example, it could be used to pay researchers or software designers, for delivery costs of a pilot programme for a new beneficiary group, to present at conferences or to publish your impact as an interactive website.

Grant Process

There will be three grant rounds over the year. In each round, around six to eight organisations will be chosen to do a short pitch to our Social Partners, after which, **two to three organisations will be selected** to receive the grant. These organisations will then be put before a grants sub-committee, and, if approved, a grant will be distributed up to four to six weeks after the initial selection.

You will receive the grant up front, and all we ask in return is that you complete the initiative within 12 months, provide us with a short report about it and present your findings at an event in 2021.

Please note, it is important that you attend the pitching event **in person** to pitch to the Social Partners. There will be three application rounds over the year, so if you are unable to attend the next pitching event, we ask that you wait to apply for a round when you will be able to attend. The dates for the 2020 pitching events are:

Round One: 16th April, 2020

Round Two: 31st July, 2020

Round Three: 12th November, 2020

You are entitled to be reimbursed for any reasonable travel expenses to attend the pitching event. Please get in touch for more information.

Should you apply?

We are seeking applications from SSE Fellows who have completed long SSE programmes at least 12 months ago. You will be from an organisation working with disadvantaged communities that is 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. The organisation must be based in the UK, but could be working anywhere in the world.

You will have already demonstrated that the business model can work, and now want to improve on this. You are driven to expand your social impact, and will use this grant towards this goal. There are no other parameters on what sort of initiative this grant must be used towards, and we encourage creativity when considering how this grant could help your organisation build its social impact.

For some inspiration, here's a snapshot of a few winning applications from the past year:

- Involved Salford applied to develop and run action learning workshops with SSE fellows that will explore the challenges small social enterprises face in collaborative working. The output of these workshops will inform the creation of a tool-kit to enable SSE fellows and organisations to collaborate more effectively on delivery, bids, measurement and more.
- The Skill Mill won a grant to conduct formalised research on the potential health benefits of its programme, an area that previously had not been identified as an intended outcome. It will build on anecdotal evidence of positive health benefits, and will partner with a university to develop new baseline indicators that track health outcomes.
- Sound Communities CIC will use its grant to create an impact report and an accompanying short film that showcase its beneficiaries and learning. Sound Communities will train selected beneficiaries to work on the film, and hopes that the film and report will help build the organisation's financial resilience.
- The Bristol Bike Project is using its grant to investigate and address gender imbalance within its beneficiary pool. It will concurrently look into barriers to accessing the current programme, and test a targeted pilot programme for young women.

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 - even if you have attended multiple programmes, the most recent programme must have ended at least 12 months ago. You cannot currently be on a long-duration programme, nor can you be accepted to one starting this year.
- 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 that 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 could 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 initiative that will help you understand, expand/ deepen 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.
- The Social Partners will be looking for applications that can clearly articulate:
 - The impact your organisation makes and its ambition for the future
 - What initiative the grant will be used towards and what you hope to learn
 - A plan for how the grant will be used, by whom, and to what timeline

How do I apply?

- Complete a brief online application by Friday 28th February 2020 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 Alisha on alisha.mulhall@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 Alisha on alisha.mulhall@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>