

# Fellows future fund

## Introduction

As a Fellow of SSE, you have already demonstrated your passion and commitment to social change. We want to support you to innovate and experiment with an eye towards tackling society's most serious issues.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, around 14 million people in the UK lived in poverty<sup>1</sup>, representing approximately 22% of the population. Inequality figures are equally disturbing, with the country's richest 10% bringing in 50% more income than the poorest 40%<sup>2</sup>. Poverty and inequality are complex and multidimensional issues, deeply linked to and driven by structural oppression, and further exacerbated by the current crisis.

This round of the Fellows Future Fund invites Fellows to **propose initiatives that will support their organisation's capacity to tackle inequality and/or poverty**. We are looking for a commitment to combating these most fundamental issues, and an appetite for exploring new ways of thinking or working.

We know you cannot solve these issues overnight. This grant of £5000 can, however, provide your organisation the opportunity to explore its approach to addressing poverty and inequality, learn more about how these issues manifest in the communities where it operates, or innovate to meet these challenges.

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 initiative that develops or deepens your organisation's ability to tackle poverty and/or inequality. For example, it could be used to pay researchers or software designers, or for delivery costs of a pilot programme for a new beneficiary group.

### Grant Process

In this grant round, up to 10 organisations will be chosen to present a short pitch to our Social Partners, after which, **three to four organisations will be selected** to receive the

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<sup>1</sup> [UK Poverty 2019/20](#), Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2020

<sup>2</sup> [Household income inequality, UK: financial year ending 2020](#), Office for National Statistics, 2020

grant. These organisations and the proposed initiatives will then be presented to SSE's 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 and provide us with a short report. If possible, we might also ask you to present your initiative at an event.

Please note, you must attend the pitching event to be considered for the grant. There will be two more application rounds in 2021, so if you are unable to attend the March pitching event, we ask that you wait to apply for a round when you will be able to attend. The dates for the pitching events are:

- This round: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (held virtually)
- Next round: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (held virtually)
- Third round: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (virtual or in person - TBC)

## 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 £25,000**. 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 committed to improving, refining, or expanding your organisation's approach to tackling poverty and/or inequality and will use this grant towards this goal.

The purpose of the Fellows Future Fund is to provide opportunities for experimentation and learning - areas that are rarely funded. Therefore, we are less inclined to fund traditional impact or research reports, and instead seek to support initiatives that innovate. 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 support you to fight poverty and/or inequality.

## 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 later 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 support your organisation's capacity to address inequality and/or poverty.
- You will tell us in a short online application about you, your organisation and how you would spend a £5,000 grant.
- We seek innovation and experimentation with these initiatives and expect you to clearly articulate how you will measure impact and integrate learning.
- 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

## 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](mailto: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>