

Fellows Future Fund

Introduction

The Fellows Future Fund has been running since 2019 and offers grants for further learning, innovation, and experimentation within our Fellows community. Through grants and mentoring, we have supported 21 Fellows to deepen their social impact and tackle inequality.

In Round 6 we shook up the process to make it more accessible, interactive, and streamlined - and it proved a positive experience for the Fellows and Social Partners who took part. We've made some tweaks and are excited to build on this foundation in Round 7.

Round 7 of the Fellows Future Fund will invite applications from Fellows who graduated from their most recent SSE programme at least 12 months ago. Once again, rather than set a theme, we want **you** to tell us what you need and how funding and mentoring support will help you build more sustainable organisations and impact.

In addition to mentoring, we'll be offering 3-4 grants of £7,500 this round.

Eligibility

The Fellows Future Fund is open to Fellows of SSE programmes:

- That lasted more than six months,
- That 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.

- 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. If Covid severely affected your income in the last year, please get in touch.

The Criteria

We want you to tell us what you need, and what would make a difference to your organisation right now. Here are a few more details:

- Please propose an idea for a project or initiative that will be completed within a 12-month grant period.
- You'll be asked to tell us about your organisation, and how the idea you're proposing could support resilience and sustainability - both in terms of your business model and the impact that you have.

Please note, that the Fellows Future Fund grant **cannot** go towards unrestricted funding for your organisation. If you are proposing to hire new staff with the grant, they should have a specific remit of work that will make a significant difference to your organisation and beneficiaries.

We will assess applications by the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

- There is significant and measurable need for the proposed project,
- The organisation is focused on building a sustainable business model and the proposed idea can contribute towards its financial resilience,
- The proposed idea is feasible and can be completed within a 12-month period,
- The proposed idea will have a significant impact on beneficiaries, communities, and the sector-at-large.

See Appendix A for more information on the criteria and pointers for addressing the criteria within your application.

Application Process

We believe all ideas can be improved by feedback from multiple perspectives, so this assessment process is structured to provide plenty of opportunities for feedback and interaction with the Social Partners - the group who assess these grant rounds.

Stage One: Online Application

You'll fill in some basic information, and you'll answer a series of short-answer questions about your organisation and the proposed initiative. Online applications are open between October 11th and October 25th.

Once the deadline for submissions has passed, we will longlist a group of **up to 30 applicants** to advance to the next stage.

Stage Two: Shortlisting Rounds

Longlisted applicants will be invited to take part in one of four virtual Shortlisting Rounds.

If you are invited to a Shortlisting Round, you'll be provided with a short timeslot, during which you will be able to discuss your idea in more depth. You will also receive direct feedback and questions from the Social Partners.

Shortlisting Round Schedule*:

1. Monday, November 8th, 9.30 - 12.30
2. Monday, November 8th, 1.30 - 4.30
3. Tuesday, November 9th, 9.00 - 12.00
4. Tuesday, November 9th, 1.30 - 4.30

**You'll be invited to attend one of these dates and will only be required to attend a slot of approximately 15 minutes. You will be able to indicate your availability when you submit your initial application.*

After all four Shortlisting Rounds have taken place, **8-10 finalists** will be shortlisted and invited to a final pitching panel.

Pre-Panel Prep

If you are invited to the final pitching panel, you will be asked to submit a fuller, final application that includes your official full accounts, and a project plan. You'll be able to change and refine your idea and your pitch based on the feedback you received during the Shortlisting Round.

Stage Three: Pitching Panel

We will hold a virtual pitching panel on **December 2nd, 2021**. If invited to the final pitch, you'll be given another timeslot, during which you'll pitch and then take questions from the panel of Social Partners. After the final pitching panel, 3-4 grantees will be selected by the Social Partners to receive £7,500!¹

For more info:

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>

¹ As always, the grantees will be confirmed within four weeks of the final pitching panel, after SSE's Board grants sub-committee approves.

Appendix A - Criteria Guidance

1. **There is significant and measurable need**
 - Have you clearly articulated the issue that needs to be addressed with a few relevant facts/figures/statistics?
 - Have you demonstrated why it is important to undertake this project at this time?

2. **The organisation is focused on building a sustainable business model and the proposed idea can contribute towards its financial resilience**
 - Have you told us which aspects of your current income streams are sustainable and/or commercially viable?
 - Have you considered and demonstrated how the initiative might bring in additional revenue and/or become self-sustaining?
 - Do you have a realistic plan for sustaining the initiative after the grant period ends?
 - You might not have this figured out just yet - and that's fine! - we want to support organisations who want to build towards this vision. Make sure you provide information on what challenges you face in establishing a sustainable business model and how targeted mentoring support could help with this.

3. **The proposed idea is feasible**
 - Does the idea you have proposed effectively respond to a need or issue?
 - Is the project aligned with your organisation's mission and purpose?
 - Is 12 months a reasonable timeframe for progress with this initiative?
 - What risks have you identified and how will these be addressed?

4. **The potential impact on the organisation and beneficiaries will be significant.**
 - Does your organisation have a robust track record of impact that the project will build on?
 - Have you articulated how the initiative will tangibly make a difference for beneficiaries, communities, the environment, and/or your sector?
 - What other actors, existing research, or good practice could be called upon to ensure the success of this project? Have they been identified?