

WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENARY GRANTS SCHEME LARGE GRANT FUND ROUND 1 - GUIDANCE

Women's Vote Centenary Grants Scheme

The Representation of the People Act in 1918 extended the vote to women for the first time in the United Kingdom. In 2018, we celebrate the centenary of this milestone.

The Women's Vote Centenary Grants Scheme is one of a number of ways in which this important anniversary is being marked across England.

The centenary is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate 100 years since women gained the right to vote. It's also a chance for us to think about our own role in civic life and encourage others to do the same.

The large grant fund will create a lasting legacy for the centenary by supporting work that is important, engaging and genuinely stand out.

There will be two rounds of large grant funding. This first round is for projects that are already well developed and ready to start by 30 April 2018 and run up to the end of the year.

Policy Context / background

Since the Representation of the People Act and the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act came into effect in 1918, women have been voting and standing in elections. Following the 2017 General Election there are now 208 women MPs (32% of the House of Commons)¹. This is the highest number ever. However, if Parliament truly reflected the public it serves, we would expect 331 (or 51%) of all MPs to be women.

The election also saw 104 constituencies across the UK without any female candidates². This left approximately 7.5million British voters without an opportunity to vote for a woman candidate. The UK is currently 38th out of 193 countries worldwide and 11th in the European Union by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in terms of women's political representation³.

¹ 2017 results (HoC library):

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/researchbriefing/Summary/CBP-7979>

² 2017: Women candidates by party and constituency: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2017-40011733>

³ <http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/arc/classif011017.htm>

YouGov estimate that at the 2017 General Election, 57% of 18-19 year olds voted compared with 84% of those aged 70+⁴. Whilst this is the highest youth turnout in 25 years, it remains unacceptably low with young women from particular social backgrounds the least likely demographic to vote.

The Hansard Society found that those who claim to be least interested in and knowledgeable about politics are younger (those aged 18-34), female, BME citizens, and those from less affluent and least educated groups. They also note a decline in the number of women who claim that they feel knowledgeable about politics⁵.

Programme objectives

The large grant fund is intended to support the overall objectives for the centenary, which are:

- **CELEBRATE, INSPIRE and REMEMBER:** to increase national awareness and mark 100 years since women got the right to vote.
- **EDUCATE:** to increase young people's knowledge of UK democracy and its importance, and increase their democratic participation.
- **PARTICIPATE:** to aspire to achieve gender parity in local and national politics by the centenary of the Equal Franchise Act by 2028.

Funding available

There will be two rounds of funding. The first round will be aimed at projects that are already well developed to allow for a relatively quick start date and a longer running time (up to the end of 2018). Therefore, under Round 1 we will only fund projects that are ready to start by 30 April 2018.

In Round 1, you can apply for between £30,000 and £125,000 out of a pot of around £700,000. We are therefore only looking to fund around 8 to 12 projects in this round and we will only be able to support the very best projects. Please consider this very carefully before you apply.

Round 2 will be open around April 2018, for projects with a shorter running time. For the second round of funding, applicants will be able to apply for between £2,000 and £65,000 out of a pot of around £400,000.

All projects must be completed by the end of December 2018.

⁴ <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2017/06/13/how-britain-voted-2017-general-election/>

⁵ Audit of Political Engagement 14: The 2017 Report. Hansard Society.

What we will fund

Aim and objectives

The large grant fund has been established to create a lasting legacy for the centenary by supporting work that is important, engaging and genuinely stand out. Projects must have regional or national (England) significance and have an impact beyond the project duration. We would be looking for projects with capability, capacity, reach and networks.

Projects will need to meet either or both the EDUCATE and PARTICIPATE objectives, and may optionally meet the CELEBRATE objective as well.

Beneficiaries

This fund is aimed at specific beneficiary groups, depending on the objective(s) your project is looking to meet. These are:

OBJECTIVE	BENEFICIARY TYPE
EDUCATE	Young people aged 16-30
PARTICIPATE	Women aged 16+
CELEBRATE	All groups

Applicants must be able to articulate clearly who their project is aimed at, why they have chosen that group of people, and how they will reach them.

We will prioritise projects that are aimed at women and/or young people who are underrepresented such as people from lower socio-economic groups, people who are BAME, LGBT and/or living with a disability. We want to see organisations involving people who are particularly disengaged from politics and civic life.

While we expect some projects might be open to the general public (such as exhibitions), projects must be aimed at women and/or young people and we will want to see the main elements of the project specifically for that demographic.

Activities

We are not prescribing what type of activity we want to fund during this round, but have put together a few examples of what we expect we may see. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

Education: Projects that increase awareness of and encourage involvement in political and civic life through colleges and adult and community learning, mentoring schemes or leadership development. This may also be outside of a traditional learning environment.

Social action and engagement: Stand-alone or programmes of participatory events, talks and tours themed around the historical legacy of the centenary and/or issues affecting women's involvement in political and civic life.

Culture: Theatre or music productions and exhibitions aimed at and catered to women and/or young people, where there is an element of participation, such as workshops. We would want to see these projects involve those women and/or young people who do not normally access cultural activities.

Heritage: Projects that showcase or celebrate the history of women's suffrage or of women's contributions to political or civic life. This could involve exploring how women's experiences differ now to 100 years ago. It should be more than just museum exhibits where the audience is a passive participant.

Where projects are part of an existing programme of activity, the project we are funding should be distinct and discrete. In exceptional cases, we will consider contributing towards a single larger project, but only if the Women's Vote Centenary Grant Scheme is the majority funder.

Project location

We want to ensure a good geographic spread of projects across England. It is therefore unlikely that more than one large grant fund project will be funded in a particular area. Given the limited amount of funding and expected number of projects to be funded in this round, you may wish to discuss your application with local stakeholders before submitting.

We will consider projects that take place across multiple locations. However, this type of project will be assessed based on the aim and objectives described above. They will be considered alongside single location projects to ensure there is a good geographic spread.

Who can apply

Organisations eligible for funding:

- Voluntary and community organisations
 - Registered charities and voluntary organisations
 - Social enterprises and other not for profit companies or ventures
 - Community benefit societies and co-operative societies
- Colleges and universities
- Trade unions that meet the statutory definition of a trade union

Partnerships or consortia are able to apply for funding. One organisation within the partnership or consortia must be the lead and take on full responsibility for the project and the terms and conditions of the grant. The lead organisation must be an eligible applicant organisation. Special purpose vehicles are not able to apply.

Museums, galleries and cultural organisations are encouraged to apply.

Local authorities may not apply for funding directly, but are encouraged to be part of partnership or consortia bids.

Organisations that have received funding from the Centenary Cities fund will not be able to apply for funding through this element of the Scheme. We are also unlikely to fund projects in the seven Centenary Cities areas (Bolton, Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester and Nottingham) unless they are distinct from and/or add significant value to what has already been funded.

Organisations that have already received funding from the small grant fund are able to apply for a large grant as long as it is for a different project.

Applicants should note that the Government is separately supporting projects specifically focused on the Educate objective of the Centenary Fund programme: to raise awareness of democracy, the story of suffrage and encourage democratic processes amongst young people (age 13-16). The projects take place in formal and non-formal settings and include a schools secondary resource, democracy ambassadors scheme with communication campaign and parliamentarian pack for members and peers to discuss the importance of voices and votes with young people in the constituencies they work in. To ensure that a diverse range of audiences and ideas benefit from this particular grant scheme, we will not fund similar projects aimed at 16 year olds and we would not expect schools to apply for funding under this scheme.

This year, the Government will host the first annual National Democracy Week, 2-7 July 2018, with the key ambition to increase the number of people who understand and participate in our democratic process. Organisations that are members of the National Democracy Week Council are able to apply to the Women's Vote Centenary Grant Scheme large grant fund and projects will be selected based on the grant fund criteria.

We will not fund

The following costs are ineligible:

- Statutory activities
- Alcohol

- Applications that are solely for staff costs of any kind
- Activity outside of England
- Activities that happen or incur expenditure before we confirm grant funding
- Fundraising activities for your organisation or others
- Campaigns and wholly comms-based activities
- Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest
- Equipment or assets that have a lasting value beyond the activities we are funding
- Activities that are chargeable (i.e. tickets) unless that is reinvested in the activities
- Recoverable VAT
- Research
- Political activity - activity that promotes the cause or beliefs of a political party
- Religious activity - activity that propagates a particular religion. We recognise and welcome the community work undertaken by religious organisations, so applications for activity open to all from such organisations are eligible.

How to apply

You can apply for the grant online [here](#). In order to apply for the grant online you must first register to create an account. This is quick and easy to do. Once your account is set up, you can complete and submit your application and keep up to date on the progress of your application.

Please make sure to save your application as you progress through it. This will help you identify if you have not completed any questions. To review your progress at any stage return to the summary page.

We recommend you look at the guidance contained in the pdf version of the application form as well as this guidance before you fill out your application online. You may also wish to look at the frequently asked questions.

The deadline to submit your application is 27 February 2018 at 23.59. Be sure to answer every question fully and include everything we have asked for.

Please note that we will only fund projects that are ready to start by 30 April 2018. The application form contains questions to help us understand how well developed your project is.

We may contact you as part of our assessment of your application. It is important that you respond within the timescales we provide.

We aim to let you know whether you have been successful in early April.

Bank account requirements

You must have a bank account in the name of your organisation and the bank account must have at least two unrelated signatories. Please send an electronic copy of a recent bank statement (less than three months old) with your application.

Payments and reporting

If your project is successful, we will start to make payments once your grant agreement is agreed and signed.

We will pay 20% of your grant as a Start-Up payment. The remaining 80% of your grant will be paid throughout the life of your project against your project deliverables.

In your application form you should tell us how you would like to claim for your grant on completion of your deliverables. You should identify up to ten major deliverables at a relatively high level. There is a further question to provide the detail of your project budget. This will form part of your grant agreement.

An example of how to do this is worked through below:

Grant: £125,000

Key deliverable / milestone	Description (50 word limit)	Start date	End date	Amount from us (£)	Date Paid
Start-up (20%)	Project mobilisation	30/04/18	31/05/18	£25,000	Following grant agreement signature
Workshops	Series of workshops over three months with sessional artists to create sculptures and art for exhibition	01/06/18	31/08/18	£60,000	
	Workshops in June	01/06/18	30/06/18	£20,000	July 18

Key deliverable / milestone	Description (50 word limit)	Start date	End date	Amount from us (£)	Date Paid
	Workshops in July	01/07/18	31/07/18	£20,000	August 18
	Workshops in August	01/06/18	31/08/18	£20,000	September 18
Communications & Engagement activity	Communications and engagement activity to support advertising exhibition and reaching target groups	01/06/18	30/10/18	£10,000	November 18
Exhibition Launch & run	Opening of exhibition and ongoing run and engagement with target groups	01/09/18	31/12/18	£25,000	January 18
Evaluation, sharing learning & Project close	Project evaluation and sharing of learning with appropriate audiences	01/12/18	31/12/18	£5,000	January 18 on approval of final project report

For each claim, you will need to provide us with a short progress report alongside evidence of completing your deliverables and details of the expenditure you have incurred.

At the end of your project, you will need to submit a final project report identifying the learning from your project and how it will contribute to a lasting legacy for the centenary. Your final payment will be made once your final project report has been approved.

We will share templates with you if you are awarded funding.

Audit requirements

You should keep a record of what you have spent your grant on and evidence of expenditure (such as receipts) for 7 years. We will audit a number of grants and may select your grant for an audit.

If you do not provide this information when asked for it then you may have to pay back your grant.

What makes a good project

Our assessment process will take account of the following criteria on what makes a good project that would be appropriate for funding from the large grant fund.

A good project:

- Is well planned and requires minimal further work to start by the end of April 2018
- Will deliver important and standout work that will contribute to a lasting and substantive legacy for the centenary beyond the project duration
- Is of regional or national (England) significance with appropriate reach and networks
- Clearly meets either or both of the Scheme's EDUCATE and PARTICIPATE as well as the CELEBRATE objective
- Shows a clear link from the project activities/deliverables to the Scheme objectives, providing confidence that the objectives will be met
- Is clearly targeted at the relevant demographic and engages with groups who are disengaged from politics and civic life
- Demonstrates it can effectively reach its beneficiaries, has involved them in planning the project and has fully catered for their needs
- Has access to relevant skills and experience to ensure successful delivery and, if being delivered by a partnership, shows how the partners can add value and work together
- Embeds monitoring and evaluation into the project and shares the learning with appropriate audiences

- Is easily identifiable as separate project and different to what your organisation is currently delivering.

You should note that funding is limited so we anticipate that the large grant fund will be highly competitive. We are expecting to receive more good applications than we can fund, and will need to ensure a good geographic spread across England and a variety of activity types.

Contact us

You can contact us by emailing us at womensvotecentenaryfund@ecorys.com.

Before contacting us, we would encourage you to carefully read this guidance, the guidance in the application form itself and check the frequently asked questions.

We regret we are unable to advise on the suitability or strength of project ideas.