

Active Futures

FAQs



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  **SPORT
ENGLAND**

 **The Young
Foundation**

Contents

03 About UK Youth

04 About The Young Foundation

05 Active Futures Cohort

07 FAQs

07 Will there be a Q&A webinar?

07 Is my organisation able to apply for this funding?

09 What can I do if my organisation is not eligible?

09 I am having trouble completing the form – can I phone UK Youth for help?

09 Can you help me apply for funding / I have accessibility requirements and require a different format or additional support?

09 Do I have to complete the application form in one go?

10 When is the deadline for the application?

10 How much funding can I apply for?

10 What does the funding cover and how can I tailor the programme to my organisation's delivery expertise or capacity?

11 Safeguarding and Health and Safety Requirements?

11 Do I have to be part of the UK Youth Network to apply?

11 How do I upload a supporting document?

12 When will I receive notification on the outcome of my application and when could I receive the funding?

12 When does the grant have to be spent by?

12 What reporting requirements will there be?

13 Can I make more than one application?

13 I've made a mistake on the form I completed. Can I amend it?

13 Can we apply if our organisation does not have a website?

13 Will I get feedback if I am unsuccessful

13 Who will make the funding decisions?

14 How will funding decisions be made?

14 Can I appeal the decision?

15 Key Information

15 Timelines

16 Finances

16 Support

About UK Youth



UK Youth is a national voice for the youth sector. We champion the critical role that youth work plays in the lives of young people. Our mission is to ensure all young people can access youth work and fulfil their potential. We will do this by impacting 1 million young people through innovative youth development and outdoor learning provision and convening 10,000 cross-sector professionals and young people to solve key issues and scale effective solutions by 2025.

We lead the UK Youth Movement – an extensive, national network across the breadth of the UK. In England alone, our Movement consists of 2,878 organisations, through which we have reach to an estimated 3.3 million young people, equivalent to almost a third of all 8–25-year-olds living in England.

UK Youth plays a unique role in addressing; the lack of investment in the youth sector, the lack of cross-sector understanding in how youth work makes a difference and the limited opportunities to embed effective solutions. These factors lead to mass inequality of access to youth services for young people.

UK Youth is working in partnership with Sport England, as part of a group of over 130 organisations, to tackle inequalities and deliver on the ambitions of its 10-year Uniting the Movement strategy. Together, we are driving system-wide change to level up access to sport and physical activity across the country, removing barriers so that movement becomes part of everyday life for all young people. UK Youth and the Young Foundation will be working in the coming months with Sport England, to connect the approach and learnings of the Active Futures programme with the Positive Experiences Collective, particularly the Patchwork Programme.





About The Young Foundation

The Young Foundation (YF) is the UK's home of social research and innovation; their work is guided by a mission to enable everyone in the UK to experience the power of participation to shape a just and fairer future. YF support organisations and individuals to work reflectively, inclusively and collaboratively. They are experienced in supporting organisations to test new ideas, scale their work and measure their impact in the world. You can explore more of the Innovation and Practice team's work [here](#).

YF are partnering with UK Youth to support participants of the Active Futures programme to 'flex their innovation muscle' through a series of workshops, residential retreats and 1:1 coaching. They will work with all the participants in this programme to guide and support their learning and efforts to develop and test new ideas and activities that increase a shared understanding, access and enjoyment in physical activity and literacy.

Active Futures Cohort

The cohort is an intensive development programme (spread across nine months) - made up of in person, online and self-reflection sessions. Participants will be people pioneering the best ways of integrating physical activity into young people's lives from across England. They will work alongside young people to learn, and experiment with ways to grow their work and test new innovative approaches that tackle inequality, drawing on local knowledge and lived experience to shape meaningful solutions.

At its heart, the fellowship focuses on better integrating movement and activity into everyday life. Together, fellows will co-create and share best-practice solutions that make physical activity more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable in different communities. The ultimate goal is to develop evidence-informed, fundable ideas, supported by UK Youth and The Young Foundation, that can drive long-term impact and change.

Who can take part?

Active Futures is a development offer targeted principally at the youth sector and those engaged in the delivery of youth work with and for young people. If you deliver youth work in a youth organisation, sports organisation, or outdoor education in England, this programme is for you. Each organisation will nominate one representative to take part, and these individuals will become the fellows.

What activities will practitioners get involved with?

- **Residentials at Avon Tyrrell** – connect with peers, take part in workshops, and build lasting relationships
- **Skills development** – learn new approaches, methods and ways of working
- **Spotlight webinars** – learn directly from sector leaders and innovators
- **Action Learning sets** – explore, refine, and develop ideas together, turning them into meaningful actions
- **Peer coaching** – practice active listening and a coaching approach to testing and scaling ideas
- **Co-design with young people** – explore principles of co-production and strengthen how your practice enables youth-led principles.
- **Project development** – design, pilot, and test an innovative project with your community
- Resources and reading – gain access to curated materials to enhance your ideas
- **Profile building** – showcasing activity and being part of a wider campaign about excellence in physical activity work with young people

How will practitioners benefit?

- **Articulate their practice** – use the guiding levers that will be introduced during the programme to reflect on current work, identify strengths and challenges, and explore opportunities to improve and scale best practice solutions
- **Build their practice** – actively test and learn new approaches, trial different ways of working or collaborating with new groups of young people
- **Communicate their practice** – gain tools and language to describe work in ways that resonate with policy makers, underpinned by research in physical literacy
- **Contextualise their practice** – collaboratively address the “black holes” that can limit thinking, considering intersectionality, local barriers, and the unconscious biases that may affect scaling



Before reading the full application guidance and FAQ documents we recommend you thoroughly read the eligibility criteria.

FAQs

Will there be a Q&A webinar?

Yes. We recommend attending one of our planned webinars, which will take place on :

- Thursday 11th September 1-2pm
- Thursday 18th September 1.30-2.30pm

During these webinars we will run through the practicalities of completing the application form, answer general application questions and provide general guidance.

Is my organisation able to apply for this funding?

This funding is only for providers delivering youth work and physical literacy, which for the purposes of this fund UK Youth define using the '[Physical Literacy consensus statement for England](#)':

'Physical literacy refers to the degree to which we have a positive and meaningful relationship with movement and physical activity. In practice, we see organisations delivering physical literacy as those that create opportunities for young people to move, play, and be active in ways that build skills, confidence, and enjoyment. This could include youth organisations, sports clubs, outdoor learning providers whose programmes help young people integrate movement into their everyday lives and develop a lasting positive connection with physical activity.'

Physical literacy
is our relationship
with movement
and physical
activity
throughout life

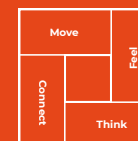
A personal relationship

Having a positive and meaningful association with movement and physical activity.



Movement and physical activity

How we move (physical), connect (social), think (cognitive) and feel (affective) during movement and physical activity plays a crucial role.



Throughout life

Influenced across the lifecourse by individual, social and environmental factors.



We are keen to reach as diverse an application base as possible and welcome applications from youth organisations, sports organisations and outdoor learning providers working at different scales but capable of delivering the above criteria.

As part of the application, you will be asked to confirm the following eligibility requirements:

- **You** have authority to make this application for funding on behalf of your organisation.
- **Applicant organisation** is based in England – you are able to provide information of your registered office
- **Applicant organisation** Applicant organisation must be a charitable, not for profit organisation or Community Interest Company (CIC) and can provide verification information (such as Memorandum and Articles of Association) if asked to do so.
- **Applicant organisation** must have been in operation long enough to provide at least 2 years of certified accounts and be able to demonstrate previous delivery experience, benefiting young people.
- **Applicant organisation** can demonstrate safe working practices and provide a safe space for young people to engage in outdoor learning. Successful applicants must submit up to date safeguarding documentation as part of the verification process.
- **Applicant organisation** holds public liability and indemnity insurance of no less than £5M. Successful applicants must submit valid insurance certificates as part of the verification process.
- **Applicant organisation** must comply with the Equality Act 2010, the General DataProtection Regulation 2018 and Data Protection Act 2018, Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and all other relevant statutory or regulatory requirement



If you have any questions about your eligibility, email movement@ukyouth.org using the subject line 'Eligibility' and we will aim to respond within 24 hours.

What can I do if my organisation is not eligible?

If your organisation isn't eligible this time, we'd still love for you to be part of the work. We will be launching our Active Futures Community soon — it's completely free and open to all so stay tuned for updates that will be released in the [UK Youth Newsletter](#). The Community is a space where you can attend webinars and panel discussions, explore resources, and connect with other organisations and practitioners through digital chat functions and forum spaces. It's a great way to keep learning, sharing, and building relationships with other likeminded practitioners.

I am having trouble completing the form – can I contact UK Youth for help?

The quickest way to get support is to email movement@ukyouth.org with your query.

Can you help me apply for funding / I have accessibility requirements and require a different format or additional support?

UK Youth are committed to making our grant funding accessible to all applicants and it is our intention to remove all barriers that may prevent an organisation from completing the questionnaire. Please contact us at movement@ukyouth.org if you require additional support.

Do I have to complete the application form in one go?

We have tried to make the application form as simple as possible whilst allowing us to obtain the key information needed for us to administer the funding diligently. Before you start, we recommend making sure you have looked through the Application Guidance document which covers all the information you need in order to complete the application.

You will need to answer each question to navigate through the application form. However, you can go back and edit your responses before you submit and the form. Applications do not have to be written in full sentences and we will not be assessing grammar/spelling or your ability to turn a phrase. If bullet points summarise answers best for you, this is fine for us.

It is fine for you to use AI tools in developing your responses, however, we do want to hear about your specific organisation and how a programme like this will support you and your work. Applications which capture how the programme will specifically benefit your organisation will be more likely to capture reviewers' attention.



This inbox is monitored 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday and we will aim to get back to you within 24 hours. Questions received after 3pm on 24th September might not be answered before the application deadline, so please get in touch early if you have any queries.



You cannot save a started application, so once started you have to complete the application and submit it.

When is the deadline for the application?

The closing date is **11am Thursday 25th September 2025**.

What funding is available?

Each organisation will receive a fixed funding amount of **£15,200**. This funding is intended to cover practitioner time, management supervision, and costs associated with developing and piloting your project. It will also cover access needs such as travel expenses, so that participation for both practitioners and young people is as inclusive and accessible as possible.

UK Youth are investing in Active Futures in response to the particularly challenging funding context faced by youth organisations, which have seen a 73% cut in funding since 2010-11.

Whilst this support and funding cannot begin to reverse national funding cuts on this scale, it presents an opportunity to invest in promising youth work-led ideas to make sport and physical activity opportunities more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for young people in youth settings.

What does the funding cover and how can I tailor the programme to my organisation's delivery expertise or capacity?

The funding is designed to support your organisation's involvement in the full programme. This includes a mix of required and optional engagement opportunities, as well as time for independent work. You'll take part in two residentials (two days each) at our Avon Tyrrell site, which are a key part of the experience.

While we expect practitioners to attend all required workshops, we understand that things don't always go to plan. We encourage you to identify a back-up staff member who can step in if needed, so your organisation doesn't miss out.

At the same time, there's flexibility built in: optional sessions as well as opportunities for independent work give you the chance to shape your journey and focus on areas that best fit your needs and capacity. You'll also find a full calendar of sessions below, so you can plan ahead and make it work for you. By applying you are committing to participating in these sessions and in this programme. If you are unlikely to be able to participate, this might not be the right opportunity at this time.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety Requirements?

As a part of our quality assurance programme for Active Futures we reserve the right to conduct in person quality assurance checks incorporating the above, during your delivery window, which will be agreed at least one week in advance at a mutually agreed date and time.

Successful organisations awarded the funding will be asked to provide evidence relevant safeguarding and health & safety documentation as part of our due diligence and compliance checks, and funding will not be paid until these have been completed.

We will request copies of the following information:

- Safeguarding policy
- Name of your Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Safeguarding training certificates for staff involved in the programme
- DBS certificates for staff involved in the programme
- Health & Safety policy

Do I have to be part of the UK Youth Network to apply?

No, but you will become a UK Youth Network Member, (no cost), if you apply for Active Futures funding and we encourage all applicants to sign up to the [Newsletter](#) to take advantage of opportunities for your organisation including gaining free access to events, campaigns, training, peer support, themed networks, and programmes.

How do I upload a supporting document?

Please click the link in the application form which will direct you to a file request page (see right). Please name your file your organisation name and question title e.g. 'organisation name, participation' so that we are able to link the document back to your application. If your file does not contain your organisation name, it will not be counted towards your application.

If you have any issues uploading a file, please email movement@ukyouth.org.

A member of "File request - UK Youth Research" is requesting files for:

UK Youth's Active Futures - Supporting Documents

Select files

When will I receive notification on the outcome of my application and when could I receive the funding?

All successful applicants who have submitted their application prior to 11am Thursday 25th September 2025 will receive confirmation of a funding offer in the week commencing 13th October 2025.

Upon notification of confirmation of funding we will undertake due diligence with all organisations, which may include a visit to your organisation – this will include you verifying you are able to commit to the scheduled dates and time commitment of the programme. Upon completion of the due diligence process, we will send you a contract grant agreement for you to sign and return so that your 50% payment can be made. Typically, we will make payment within two weeks of receiving your signed contract grant agreement.

When does the grant have to be spent by?

50% of your grant will be made on receipt of your signed grant agreement and all delivery must be complete by Friday 31st July. We will pay the remaining 50% of your grant on confirmation you have successfully completed your delivery plan (including attending development sessions) and returned the required / agreed impact data.

What reporting requirements will there be?

UK Youth is committed to learning with the Active Futures cohort in a proportionate and inclusive way, and many of the learning opportunities will be integrated in the delivery of the project. In terms of specific touchpoints that will require your time, there will be a short pre/post survey, learning and reflection sessions at the residentials, and a small number of site visits to support our learning.



You will be notified on the outcome of your application via the email address provided in your application, so please make sure the email address used in your application is monitored during this period or notify us if you need to submit additional contact details.

Can I make more than one application?

Only one application per organisation can be made.

I've made a mistake on the form I completed. Can I amend it?

Please check your application thoroughly before submitting. However, we understand these things happen. Please email movement@ukyouth.org with the words 'error correction' in the title and include the correct information in the body of your email.

Any requested amendments must be made by 11am Thursday 25th September to ensure we can update your submission before this is reviewed by our shortlisting panel.

Can we apply if our organisation does not have a website?

Yes, you can apply if you do not have a website, but UK Youth will still need to be able to complete all compliance checks before grant funding is awarded

Will I get feedback if I am unsuccessful?

No. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide individual feedback. But we will notify all applicants on the outcome of your application.

Who will make the funding decisions?

All eligible submissions will be assessed by a grant panel that will include young people and will follow a clear assessment framework.

How will funding decisions be made?

An independent panel will review applications and shortlist 35–40 of the highest-scoring entries. From this group, they will select the final cohort, bringing together those with the greatest potential to learn from one another.

- **Accessibility** of the organisation
- **Capacity** of the organisation
- **Credibility** of the organisation

The fund overall will look to demonstrate the breadth of activity taking place in the sector so collectively the successful applications will demonstrate diversity amongst:

- Geographical reach across England
- Organisation size and expertise
- Practitioner backgrounds, including a range of lived experiences

Can I appeal the decision?

No, decisions cannot be appealed.

Key Information

Timelines

The deadline for all applications is 11am Thursday 25th September 2025.

We aim to advise applicants on the outcome of their application week commencing 13th October 2025.

All delivery must be complete by 31st July 2026. All impact and evaluation data must be returned by 7th August 2026

Key Delivery Dates

Participants in the programme will be expected to attend all of these mandatory sessions. There will also be an expectation to attend six Action Learning sets throughout the duration of the programme (anticipated total duration 15 hours) as well as independent time for co-design and piloting your ideas. If you anticipate challenges with this, please flag this in your application:



Finances

50% delivery payments will be made to successful applicants as quickly as possible upon notification and return of a signed contract agreement and verification of your bank information, this will include any approved discretionary funding.

Final payments will be made on completion of your delivery and our receipt of your impact and evaluation data or by 31st August 2026, whichever is the sooner.

Support

Any requests for support with your application are requested to be sent to movement@ukyouth.org. Within working hours, we aim to respond to all emails within 24hr so please ensure you label your enquiry as clearly as possible to enable us to triage your ask quickly.

UK YOUTH

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