

Frequently-asked questions and general information on the fund October 2018

1. Is our organisation eligible to apply for the RCGF fund?

The fund is open to all 32 Scottish Local Authorities individually or whether they exercise their functions through Urban Regeneration Companies (URC's) or other Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV's). If you require further clarification on your eligibility please send an email to rcgf@gov.scot providing details of your organisation. You may be required to provide articles of association or similar documentation as part of any assessment of the organisation's eligibility. Please note that although you may not be able to apply directly this does not mean you cannot be a partner in a project being led by an eligible body. All applications must be submitted by an eligible organisation.

2. What period will the grant award cover?

Grant requests should be focused on year 2019/20. However the panel will consider request for support over 2020/21 and 2021/22. Justification for this would need to be clear. You should demonstrate that other funding is in place or can be secured where the project end date is out with the period of confirmed RCGF support. Although there is a commitment to continue to deliver the fund over the remainder of the current parliamentary term (May 2021) and which will include budget for 2021/22, funding available remains to subject to the spending review process.

3. Is there a closing date for applications or will we consider applications for future years?

The closing date for **second stage** is **12:00 midday, Monday 19 November 2018**. The fund will not reopen for applications again during 2018.

4. I can't access the application form from the website.

Please send an email to rcgf@gov.scot or contact the regeneration team at 0141-242-5430.

5. Will there be information sessions I can attend?

Not at this time. However if you have any additional queries please email rcgf@gov.scot and we will seek to provide an answer to your query.

6. When will I be contacted about my application once it's been submitted?

We will let you know the result of the process as soon as possible after the meeting of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Investment panel likely to take place in January 2019. If we need to clarify anything on your application form we will communicate this to the project contact as soon as possible after the closing date for applications.

7. Can RCGF fund the upgrade of community centre facilities?

This could be an eligible project. It will be for individual project applicants to demonstrate that the project activity they are proposing will deliver regeneration outcomes in line with the aims and criteria of the fund.

8. Will RCGF provide funds for feasibility studies for proposals?

No, projects should be suitably developed and at a stage where capital expenditure can be incurred and delivery of the project can start during 2019/20 with priority given to those commencing prior to December 2019.

9. Do I need individual applications for a project that covers more than one local authority area?

No, only one application is required for each project, even if the project in question involves more than one local authority.

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10. Will RCGF cover employment/ revenue costs, and if so, under what circumstances?

The fund is a capital grant fund and therefore employment costs are not eligible. Only capital costs solely associated with the delivery of the project are eligible. However costs such as professional fees directly related to the project can be included.

11. What level of match funding does RCGF require?

Match Funding is not required. However, projects should consider any leverage that can be brought to the funding package as this will be considered by the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Investment Panel when assessing projects. Where an applicant is not committing funding themselves an explanation of this is requested.

12. Can I submit other supporting documents, such as feasibility studies and business plans, with the application?

No other documentation should be submitted or is required at this stage. You may provide separately a map/plan of the area or project if this would be helpful in describing project.

13. Should I include 'in-kind' contributions in the costing package?

Do not include these within the costing detail on the form, however you may wish to include this in the description of the project relating to contributions from the applicant or partners.

14. Will claims be paid in advance of need?

No. Projects applicants will be required to complete a claim form for grant they have spent or where they have entered into legal/binding contract commitments to deliver projects. Evidence to support expenditure is required.

15. Can I request grant over more than one financial year?

Yes, however all projects must be capable of starting and drawing grant support in the year 2019/2020. The investment panel will consider carefully any request that requires support over more than one financial year. If it is not clear that you can draw down significant funding in 2019/20 then your project is unlikely to receive a recommendation from the panel. Priority will be given by the Investment Panel to projects that can clearly demonstrate they can start prior to the end of December 2019.

16. Can grant be carried forward over financial years?

All projects are expected to draw grant in line with the agreed profile in any financial year and there is no certainty that grant funding not drawn will be carried over and therefore may be lost to the project. It is essential therefore that the project is as fully developed as possible. Where other funders are contributing to the project, discussions should be underway and applicants able to demonstrate the timeframe for decision making is compatible with the timeframes for delivering RCGF spend in 2019/20. Failure to demonstrate this, particularly at stage 2 is likely to see any application fail RCGF viability assessment.

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General Information on the Fund

The RCGF forms one part of the financial support package provided by Scottish Government as part of *Achieving a Sustainable Future: The Regeneration Strategy*, published in December 2011 and accessible via the following link <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/regeneration/capital-investment/>

RCGF has been developed in partnership with COSLA and local authorities. It has an annual budget to provide financial support to projects that will help to deliver large-scale improvements to deprived areas.

The fund supports regeneration projects across Scotland and is available on a competitive basis to eligible organisations.

The fund is primarily aimed at providing new and/or improved infrastructure to improve the economic, social, and physical environment of communities. The application and assessment process aims to create a pipeline of projects with the potential for funding and provide feedback for projects to be further developed.

Funding available to support projects for 2019/20 – 2021/22 is subject to the Scottish Governments spending review.

The focus of this call is for projects that are capable of starting in the financial year 2019/20 and to fully utilise the grant allocated for that financial year. Project applications should therefore prioritise any grant request for 2019/20 a start date prior to 31 December 2019. Applicants may however profile grant support across three financial years if they wish to do so. Applicants should clearly justify any request for grant over more than one year as this will be scrutinised carefully by the Investment Panel. Subject to the spending review, further calls are anticipated for projects starting in 2020/21.

Policy Context

Projects should also be able to demonstrate how they will complement and support or contribute to the following;

- Scotland's Economic Strategy <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-economic-strategy/>
- Town Centre Action Plan and Town Centre First Principle. <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/regeneration/town-centre-regeneration/>
- Local Authority Local Economic Development, Regeneration, Local Development and Strategic Development Plans.

Grant Requests

Grant requests will focus on 2019/20. Grant may be applied for over the lifetime of the project where it will be delivered over more than one financial year, however it must be clearly demonstrated that significant expenditure will be incurred by the project and which will allow RCGF to be drawn down in full during the year 2019/20. It is expected that the main infrastructure works, which will be the focus of the RCGF support, will be underway or will at least have gone through full procurement and a successful contractor appointed and legally binding contract signed during 2019/20.

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Priority will be given to those projects that demonstrate they can be under way by end of December 2019.

Please note, where a project is successful in receiving a recommendation and offer of grant, drawdown must take place in line with the approved profile. There is no facility to carry over grant into subsequent financial years. Once approved, failure to draw grant in line with the agreed profile may result in grant being lost to the project.

Project end dates may go beyond the funding period outlined in the application; however it should be clear what the sources of funding for this activity will be.

Funding Profiles

The Investment Panel will consider all applications in terms of their viability. This will include ensuring that the focus of grant requests is for 2019/20, but will also involve reviewing requests for grant from potential future year allocations and the corresponding impact that would have on the total grant funding that would be available for new projects at further calls. The panel will seek to ensure that significant resource remains on a year to year basis for new projects to come forward. Where projects seek funding across more than one financial year, it is essential that this has been clearly justified within the application.

Projects successful at receiving an invite to complete a full stage 2 application will if appropriate, be given the opportunity to consider and amend their profile based on the outcome of the spending review.

Ineligible Projects and expenditure

The fund is primarily a capital expenditure fund. Future running costs are not eligible. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that sufficient resource is in place to manage the project.

The fund is not intended be a primary source of funding for:

- Housing projects (but can support ancillary outcomes).
- Major infrastructure projects relating to transport.
- Purchase of moveable infrastructure, e.g. furniture and fittings.
- Projects relating **solely** to hotel or retail developments are unlikely to be supported if there are no clear regeneration outcomes.
- Projects that **focus solely** on public realm improvements, new roads / paths or upgrades are unlikely to be funded. However, these may be eligible if they are elements within wider regeneration projects which will produce economic and social outcomes.
- Flood protection / work / upgrades are **not eligible**.

Project Focus

- Projects that primarily focus on areas which suffer from high levels of deprivation and disadvantage.

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- Projects that will deliver transformational change with strong regeneration outcomes.
- Projects and programmes which have the potential to lever in private sector investment and address long term market failure.
- Projects that demonstrate clear community involvement.

Final Grant Offers

- The panel may recommend a level of grant other than that requested in order to ensure all eligibility criteria are met or to fully utilise the funding available. This would be subject to discussion with individual applicants.