
OVERVIEW

The Innovation Fund (“TIF”), a collaboration between the Scottish Government and The Hunter Foundation, is a commitment set out in [Every Child, Every Chance: The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan \(2018\)](#). TIF seeks applications from community, local charity groups or Local Authorities, Health Boards or any statutory service with ambitious, yet feasible plans to combat child poverty in their area.

TIF is looking to fund either:

- New and innovative approaches that will have an impact on reducing child poverty by 2030 in a way that helps families to remain out of poverty for a minimum 3 year period and that is viable and sustainable practice for public sector/third sector; or
- Expansion of existing proven approaches to reducing child poverty that will again have an impact on reducing child poverty by 2030 and in a way that families can remain out of poverty for a minimum 3 years and that organisations involved can sustain.

The collaboration will fund up to ten organisations, with up to £100,000 per organisation initially available to support their ambitious work. TIF also offers the potential for follow-on funding dependent upon indications/evidence of impact (funding will be available over the lifetime of the projects during 2018-2022). The ambition of all plans must be the delivery of increases in income or the reduction of costs for families living in poverty. The fund’s priority is to meet the needs of families and carers - this must not be compromised by prioritising instead what’s best or easiest for the organisation.

Applications are now open and will close on June 29th 2018 with awards being made, subject to final diligence and shortlisted interviews/project visits, no later than August 17th.

UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES

At the core of this investment strategy are the principles of venture philanthropy combined with community capacity building through recognising the strengths of individual citizenship. We know that:

- some statutory services may not always be best placed to respond to the realities of the lives of families on low incomes due to structural and contractual rigidity in service models;
- there are challenges in making sufficiently robust connections where one family is supported by a variety of agencies. This can be aggravated by the lack of connectivity in data-sharing across and within **both** statutory and third sectors;
- the third sector also faces a number of challenges in delivering robust scalable solutions that will bring about real reductions in child poverty; and
- both statutory and third sectors struggle to resource current service provision whilst investing in longer term sustainable change.

By investing in Social Capital within communities, we aim to unlock the potential that exists. TIF will do this by:

- listening to and learning from families in poverty, developing interventions that reflect their expertise;
- providing additional, tailored support to families to overcome the barriers that drive them into poverty and sometimes keep them there, as set out in [Every Child, Every Chance](#);
- focusing on the priority families identified in [Every Child, Every Chance](#) who face particular barriers and challenges;
- reforming the ways in which public services are delivered, putting the family at the centre of service delivery; and
- providing community-based responses that address the full range of the individual’s or family’s needs in a holistic way.

The work will augment existing policy developments and interventions alongside current commissioned services. The financial commitment will be subject to achieving mutually agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s). These KPI’s will be reviewed quarterly to reflect the flexible nature of the work and to ensure continued improvement for the community.

We expect to see genuine and equal partnership between statutory services and third sector organisations, bringing a wider set of assets and networks to bear on this work, including their convening and influencing capacities. There should be a focus on moving from high-cost reactive intervention to low-cost preventative solutions.

The statutory partners will be expected to commit to a model whereby any savings accrued over the course of the programme, through reductions in statutory interventions, will be re-invested in approaches and services which address children and family need at an earlier stage.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS

Organisations applying for funding will require to demonstrate:

- Inspiring leadership, at both individual and organisational levels, with a clear and purposeful vision and a culture that is open to exploiting new opportunities as they arise and trying new approaches to tackling big issues;
- Collaborative approaches built on genuine partnership, which optimise the assets available - including people's lived experience of the system in which the partners are operating/changing ;
- The needs being met are of the people to be supported and not those of the organisation;
- A set of values and an ethos that together demonstrate dignity and respect for the people and families being supported;
- A holistic approach to supporting people and families which promotes wellbeing and happiness; and
- Interventions which will treat people with unconditional positive regard.

DELIVERY MODEL

Applicants should detail the following key information:

- Define the challenge of child poverty in your area and how you would, or currently do, identify (or currently do) your target recipients (age; number; location) for support from your project. Set out how your target recipients overlap with the priority families set out in Every Child, Every Chance;
- Outline in detail the dignified approach you would take to working with families to help them, and potentially their extended family, move out of poverty and the timescales therein. In doing so, set out how this will tackle the drivers of poverty highlighted in Every Child, Every Chance. Please also note the additionality this funding will bring;
- Set out any evidence that suggests the proposed approach is viable, scalable, replicable and likely to succeed;
- Tell us about the people supporting this approach - for example will other funders support your plans; are Statutory Services engaged with your plans; are other community groups or charities partnering with you? How will these partners help you realise your ambition;
- Tell us why you want to do this;
- Explain how the impact of your project will be sustained over time;
- Detail how you plan to monitor and evaluate success; and
- Include an outline of your budget (and any additional funding you will deliver in support of this project), how it will be applied, and over what time period.

APPLYING TO THE FUND

You should apply in writing. You can add a video submission if you feel this adds to your submission. All applications must be accompanied by your latest set of accounts and a brief summary of the work you have undertaken to date relevant to this application. Supporting references to your application will also be considered.

Applications should be submitted to tif@thehunterfoundation.co.uk by midnight on the 29th of June. Please note successful bids will be profiled in the public domain and regular progress updates will similarly be presented publicly via The Hunter Foundation website <http://www.thehunterfoundation.co.uk/>

HIGH LEVEL OUTCOMES

The Programme aims to support successful applicants in re-balancing the public resources dedicated to children and families away from a late-stage, crisis-response intervention, and towards early intervention and prevention. It recognises that a number of structural challenges will need to be addressed if the ambition set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 is to be achieved within the timescale set out.

This funding therefore will assist in identifying those challenges and, working with their owners, identify ways in which they can be addressed to:

- Increase incomes and/or reduce costs for families in poverty.
- Deliver measurable improvement in the wellbeing of children and families living in poverty.
- Identify potential savings in the provision of statutory services that can be targeted towards prevention.
- Improve the evidence base about 'what works' to effect system change at a local and national level.