



Communities Innovating Yorkshire Fund – Frequently Asked Questions

Is the funding paid up-front or in arrears?

Payments will be made through University of Leeds and payment terms can be adapted to suit the project and organisation. Successful project grant contracts will be tailored to reflect this.

Can projects have cross-mayoral combined authority partnerships?

Projects must state their registered address, which must fall within one of the listed four mayoral combined authorities that form the boundary of our project, but we welcome projects that involve collaboration across the MCA's.

Is part of the funding pot earmarked for evaluation?

Projects will need to allot time/resource to fulfil grant monitoring and reporting requirements listed in the guidance. The YPIIP project has an overall evaluation budget which will include an overarching evaluation of the completed Communities Innovating Yorkshire projects. Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership has been funded by UKRI Economic and Social Research Council and their monitoring requirements will guide what successful projects will be asked to report back on.

Can projects apply for more than one theme?

Projects must choose **one** main theme to align with in the application form, but we welcome applications that encompass multiple themes. We would advise organisations/partnerships submitting only one application for the fund given the amount of funds available and the large geographical spread the fund is covering.

If Communities in their Places is a cross-cutting theme of the YPIP project, why is it a separate theme for the CIY Fund?

Community voice and participation is a key cross-cutting theme and must feature in all project proposals. We have included Communities in their Places as its own theme to allow for additional exploration of best practice of community-led action that may be focused on a different local challenge that links to policy innovation.

Can I have a conversation about my specific project proposal?

We have a small team managing this fund and have organised information webinars to engage with those interested in the fund to answer generic questions. Expressions of interest are to understand what additional questions are coming through to hopefully organise some webinars covering these. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to answer case by case questions on project proposals and are doing our best to give as much support as we can. Please try and attend one of our webinar sessions to gain further insight on the fund, and you will be notified as additional subject specific webinars are added to join if you think they would be helpful.

Can one application include several organisations as the applicants?

This fund is centred around collaboration and participation, so working in partnership with different stakeholders with encouraged. You will need to select one partner as the lead organisation to submit the application and to receive the funds on behalf of the partnership.

Will projects be asked to complete certain forms of monitoring?

Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership has been funded by UKRI Economic and Social Research Council and their monitoring requirements will guide what successful projects will be asked to report back on. The monitoring expectations will be shared with the grant contracts.

Can you apply to both the seedcorn and larger funds?

The separate funding pathways are designed to accommodate differing levels of expertise, familiarity and stages of project foundations within organisations, ranging from newly established or small to larger and more experienced within project planning or delivery. We envisage that proposed projects would fall into only one category, and recommend organisations make a choice during the application process. Given the amount of money and the vast geography we're covering, it would be very unlikely that an organisation would be granted funding for multiple projects. If you're exploring a completely new project/topic with no previous evidence base, then we would recommend the seedcorn pathway.

Do you already have an indicative idea of how many large (50) and smaller (10) project you're aiming to fund?

We do not yet know exact numbers of projects that we will fund but decisions on what we can accommodate will depend on funding applied for, spread of theme and location, and team capacity.

Are partnership applications encouraged?

Yes, fostering cross-partnership relationships throughout Yorkshire and the Humber across the 4 Mayoral Combined Authorities is a desired impact of the CIYF.

Can I bring in internal collaboration?

This is a place-based, regional fund based in the 4 mayoral combined authorities listed in the guidance. This means that international collaborations would not be eligible for funding.

Is the application process the same for both funds?

Each funding pathway has a separate application form which are linked on our website, but the process is the same.

Can local/combined authorities make more than one application?

Different departments within the same local authority can make different applications providing they are proposing projects which are significantly different from each other. The same department within a local authority cannot make more than one application. If projects feature elements of multiple themes, we encourage those respective departments within the local/combined authority to be working collaboratively.

What is the time frame for delivery and length of project you're looking for?

Page 8 of the criteria guide states *"The time length for funded projects (of either pathway) will vary depending on their scale and scope. All projects must be designed to finish by the end of September 2026, three months before the scheduled end of YPIP project funding."* We appreciate that people's projects will run for different lengths of time or may start straight away once receiving the funds, or they will have workshops booked in for a certain period of the overall project period. We do not expect anyway to have a 15-month project plan as onboarding may take some time, and typical projects will be up to 12 months.

What do you mean by community? Can the focus of a project be on one marginalised culture/ethnic group or multiple cultures and ethnic groups within a marginalised community?

Community is going to look different for each project proposal given the different make-up of neighbourhoods across the region. Some projects may be working with residents/members of the community directly through their connections, and others may be working with the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in their local area. Communities may be brought together through their interests, geography, identity, or purpose.

If we wanted to work with or bring in a research academic on our bid, should they be one of those who you are already working with from the 12 unis?

This is not a requirement and if you have an established relationship with an academic or university that are interested in being involved then please include this information in your application. Anything related to academic involvement is capped at the 20%, regardless of position/job title. They do not need to be formally employed by the community partner or lead applicant organisation of the bid. The lead can be invoiced for these costs.

Academic involvement is not mandatory to apply, and this funding rather provides an opportunity for successful applicants to have their work profiled through the academic and policy networks the YPIP project has access to.

Academics cannot be the lead applicant.

What do you mean by 'local policy innovation' and new ways of working?

Local policy innovation involves having an awareness of policy in your local area and centring your project around innovative ways of working/solutions. This relates to exploring new ways of tackling decision making around challenges affecting your neighbourhood or community group of focus, and testing how these new ways of working can improve policy processes and deliver better outcomes for those directly affected.

Can you please further elaborate on the standardisation and legitimisation part? Is there a standard that has to be followed while collecting that data?

We do not demand that projects follow a specific standard for collecting data. We expect that different projects are likely to collect different types of data that necessitate different types of methodologies, information management, and ethical considerations. If a project aims to work toward the standardisation, legitimisation, and/or validation of community-generated data, part of the work that will need to take place is understanding what 'standard(s)' should be applied and if there is already existing guidance for community-generated data that could be utilised.

What should be the scope of outputs/outcomes?

This would depend on the aims of your project, time-frame and budget. The fund centres around research and learning so reporting will be looking to discover:

- what you did;
- how you engaged with stakeholders and included community participation;
- what you learned through this exploration, good and bad;
- and how can things be progressed for the future through this project.

Where can I find a list of the budget headings?

We do not have specific budget headings required but would suggest something along the lines of the eligible costs, to keep things clear in your budget:

- Workshops/activities/events
- Travel costs
- Costs of organising activities
- Materials/equipment
- Community participation expenses
- Staff costs required for specific elements of/running the project
- Training costs

What is the time frame for delivery?

The guidance document states 'The time length for funded projects (of either pathway) will vary depending on their scale and scope. All projects must be designed to finish by the end of September 2026, three months before the scheduled end of YPIP project funding.'

We appreciate that people's projects will run for different lengths of time or may start straight away once receiving the funds, or they will have workshops booked in for a certain period of the overall project period. We do not expect a 15-month project plan as onboarding may take some time, and typical projects will be up to 12 months.

When you talk about data in Theme 1, is there any preference towards qualitative or quantitative data?

While the work package associated with Theme 1 exclusively works with quantitative data, we do not impose restrictions on the type of data projects wish to collect as long as the aims of the project align with the theme.

Can the application be led by the academic partner where a community organisation collaborates with an academic organisation?

No, the application must be led by one of the eligible community organisations listed in the guidance to be eligible for funding. Academics can be included on projects to a maximum of 20% of the total budget.