



## LGBT+ Fund: Youth Joy Fund

### 1. Key Summary

- The LGBT+ Fund: Youth Joy Fund is a new, 18-month fund open to organisations/groups supporting LGBT+ young people aged 11-25. Please see this key summary, and subsequent sections for an in-depth breakdown.
- This fund is a collaboration between The LGBT+ Fund, powered by Consortium, and The National Lottery Community Fund
- £300,000 will be awarded to organisations and groups based and working in England.
- The fund launches to applications on **Wednesday – 7<sup>th</sup> October at 12pm midday**.
- The fund closes to applications on **Wednesday – 18<sup>th</sup> November at 12pm midday**.
- The fund is open to LGBT+ organisations/groups that have been working with young people for **at least two years**, and who have **preexisting LGBT+ youth provision**.
- We will accept applications from wider organisations/groups that have been already been supporting LGBT+ young people if they can demonstrate that supporting the community is a large element of the work that they do, and are addressing a need in the community or working in areas with less LGBT+ provision.
- Groups can apply for a 18 month grant for amounts between £5,000-£25,000.
- All eligible applications received within the application window will be considered.



- A panel of LGBT+ young people will be assessing applications and making decisions on which applications receive funding. With this in mind, please ensure your written application is accessible to be read by young people.
- **Please note, we expect the programme to be oversubscribed. Based on similar programmes we have delivered, approximately 1 in 5 applications may be successful.**

## 2. About the fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, LGBT+ Fund, powered by Consortium, has received **£300,000** of life-changing funding from The National Lottery Community Fund to award to organisations and groups supporting LGBT+ youth across England.

This has been awarded from The National Lottery Community Fund's new You Decide programme - involving communities directly in decisions about funding good causes. You Decide is key to the funder's efforts to put community power, agency, and control at the heart of its funding in England - supporting communities to live happier, healthier lives. This truly life-changing funding has been made possible by National Lottery players.

The project puts **LGBT+ young people in the driving seat of designing and driving Youth Joy Fund**. This will support queer young people to find moments of joy through youth work, community engagement and local events.

**The LGBT+ youth sector in England is experiencing increasing pressure**, driven by a growing number of young people openly identifying as LGBT+. In 2018, only around two-thirds of Gen Z identified as exclusively heterosexual (Ipsos Mori, 2018). By 2021, people aged 16–24 were more than twice as likely as the general population to identify as LGB+, and 1% identified as trans-compared to just 0.22–0.77% in older age groups (ONS, 2021).

LGBT+ youth organisations provide vital safe spaces and targeted support to help young people grow, connect, and thrive. However, these specialist services are severely underfunded **LGBT+ charities receive just 0.1% of all UK voluntary sector funding (LGBT+ Fund Report, 2025)** -leaving many youth-focused groups struggling to meet demand. Additionally, the limited funding that organisations receive for young people is usually targeted towards support mechanisms and, while this work is important, leaves organisations struggling to provide opportunities which focus on pure joy for their young people.

The aim of this fund is for organisations supporting LGBT+ young people **to foster youth joy, belonging, and positivity building** through projects, trips, and other enriching experiences. LGBT+ young people should have the opportunity to feel higher levels of self-acceptance, connection to community, and improved wellbeing because of the funded work.



The fund opens to applications on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 12pm midday and will close to new applications on the Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2026 at 12pm midday.

### 3. Who Can Apply

**Applicants must be either:**

- An England based non-profit LGBT+ organisation or youth group that currently supports young people within the age range of 11-25 years old. (e.g. an LGBT+ organisation which primarily supports LGBT+ youth)
- An England based non-profit organisation or youth group that currently supports LGBT+ young people within the age range of 11-25 years old. Our work with LGBT+ young people is led by LGBT+ people. (e.g. an LGBT+ youth group which is led by LGBT+ youth workers within a wider youth organisation)

**Organisations must have been delivering youth work for a minimum of 2 years and must have existing LGBT+ youth provision to apply to the fund.**

We are seeking to particularly support organisations in historically underfunded areas within the LGBT+ sector such as the North-East, East, Southwest of England, areas lacking provision, and/or work which supports intersectional LGBT+ communities. For example, those supporting LGBT+ young people with disabilities, LGBT+ global majority young people, etc.

You do not need to be a member of Consortium to be eligible to apply.

Groups who have been past recipients of grants from LGBT+ Fund that have fulfilled all monitoring requirements, organisations who are currently in receipt of a grant from LGBT+ Fund, and those who have applied to open LGBT+ Funds for different projects/work are eligible to apply. The request must be for a different project / cost as we cannot double fund the same work. If in doubt, please reach out and ask.

**We foresee the fund receiving a high volume of applications and unfortunately, we may not be able to award a grant to all applicants.**

**All applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are working in an inclusive, non-discriminatory way**



## 4. Outcomes

**The funded work should aim to achieve one or more of the outcomes below (there is no requirement to seek to achieve them all):**

- Increased accessibility to safe spaces
- Supporting young people to gain community and friends
- Developing stronger networks and skills in young people
- Improved access to trips, events, and other recreational experiences
- Supporting young people to build confidence in themselves and their identity
- Improved education on queer communities and history
- Learning methods to maintain a positive life
- Improved physical and mental health
- Development of new interests and activities

### **Examples of types of eligible orgs and work:**

An intersectional LGBT+ youth group looking for funding for their neurodivergent 18–25-year-old members to attend a variety of creative workshops over 1 year.

An LGBT+ youth organisation in Shropshire that has weekly socials for 11-18-year-olds looking for funding to bring on another member of staff to support their activities.

A youth organisation based in Sunderland that has been running a well-attended LGBT+ youth group for the last 2 years looking to fund day trips and activities that their LGBT+ youth group are interested in (for example, LGBT+ exhibitions, Pride events, nature walks, museums, theatre shows, etc).

### **Examples of ineligible organisations and work:**

A pride organisation in London that runs events for LGBT+ of all ages and wants to apply for funding to run their next pride event.

A general youth organisation based in Cornwall is seeking funding to do a one-off event for LGBT+ young people.

A youth organisation in Rotherham seeking to set up a new youth group for LGBT+ young people where they have no prior LGBT+ youth provision.



## 5. How much can I apply for?

Grants range from **£5,000 to £25,000** and applicants are welcome to apply for the amount they need to undertake their work.

Please be aware that we are limited to the number of larger grants we can award as a high number of applications are anticipated.

All grants must be **fully spent within 18 months of the date a grant is awarded.**

## 6. What we can fund

- Core or running costs such as staff salaries, building rent, utilities, management, administration and training costs
- Project and activity costs such as a venue hire, refreshments, volunteer expenses or participant transport costs
- Activities can take place in-person and online – Though, with online work, we ask that organisations keep up to date and are compliant with emerging guidance regarding under 16's access to social media
- Activities taking place in education settings such as schools, colleges and universities
- Small capital purchases which are required for a project.
- As this fund focuses on LGBT+ Youth Joy, we are keen to fund applications that give young people access to fun and enriching activities and experiences.

## 7. What we cannot fund

Whilst we are keen to fund as many LGBT+ organisations and groups as we can, there are several types of organisations and groups projects and work that we cannot fund.

Please ensure that you read the list carefully. If you are unsure if your organisation or proposed work is eligible, please get in touch with the Giving Team.

- Brand new youth organisations (that have been delivering youth work for less than 2 years)/organisations new to supporting LGBT+ young people – applicants will need to demonstrate that they already have strong, established experience of supporting LGBT+ young people.



- Multiple applications from an organisation. In the interest of fairness, Consortium can only consider one application from each organisation/group per fund.
- Organisations which charge fees for attendees to access their activities, unless there is a strong reason for doing so. Where possible all activities should be free to attend so that all community members can participate.
- Organisations with fewer than 2 (unrelated) trustees, directors, or management committee members.
- Individuals.
- Statutory organisations, such as local authorities and schools.
- NHS bodies.
- Organisations which cannot demonstrate that they are working in an inclusive, non-discriminatory way.
- Organisations based outside of England.
- Activities that take place outside of England.
- Standalone or large capital purchases.
- Research.
- Political Groups.
- Work that promotes religion (i.e. work that evangelises or proselytizes).
- Organisations or groups that will distribute the grant money to others.
- Retrospective costs, i.e. costs already incurred prior to receiving a grant including the repayment of loans.
- Any organisation currently or previously in receipt of a grant from Consortium which has a history of non-compliance with grant conditions.

## 8. Youth Involvement in Decision-Making

A panel of LGBT+ young people will be assessing applications and making final decisions on which applications receive funding. With this in mind, please:

- Ensure you tailor your written application to be read by young people aged 15-26. Avoid the use of jargon or define it in brackets next to the jargon where use is necessary. For example, *we support a number of NEET young people through our existing work (NEET is an acronym for young people not in Education, Employment, or Training.)*
- When creating your budget, please round your budget breakdown items to the nearest £10, and your total requested amount to the nearest £100 as requested by the Youth Panel to make assessing applications and making final decisions accessible to them. For example:



|                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Staff costs (youth worker salaries) | £6,250 (rounded to nearest £10) |
| Travel costs                        | £800 (rounded to nearest £10)   |
| Ticket costs                        | £630 (rounded to nearest £10)   |
| Total ask                           | £7700 (rounded to nearest £100) |

- Our Youth Panel would love to hear youth voice in the applications, and so we encourage organisations to involve their young people in creating an application, from brainstorming ideas to involvement in putting together the application. This isn't required, but it is recommended.

#### About our LGBT+ Youth Panel:

- We recruited young people to join our youth panel from several LGBT+ youth organisations. In consideration of conflicts of interest, a young person will not assess or be involved in decision-making discussions on an application submitted by the organisation we recruited them from.
- We wanted to ensure a diverse and representative Youth Panel, and by engaging with LGBT+ youth orgs we have created a Panel that has young people from all over England, are aged 15-26, have intersectional identities (such as disabled young people, and global majority young people), and all bring their individual lived experiences to their work as Youth Panellists.

## 9. How do I apply?

### Applicants will be required to have the following in place when applying:

- A constitution/governing document which outlines the aims of the organisation, who it is for and the rules for running it.
- Information on two or more unrelated trustees, committee / board members or directors.
- A correspondence address and contact details
- **An up to date, relevant and appropriate Child Safeguarding Policy which has been reviewed within the last year**
- Confirmation that staff members and volunteers have been DBS checked to the relevant level for their role (Enhanced DBS check for those working directly with young people)
- A set of recent accounts
- A budget for the amount being requested.
- A bank account in the organisations name or an account with a fiscal hosting platform



## Video Applications

Applications can also be made via a video application. In the interest of fairness, the video application should include answers to all the written application form questions. Videos should be a maximum length of 5 minutes and information included in the video will be transcribed into a written application form by a member of the Giving team. No community panellists will view the original video.

## Supported Applications

We also offer supported applications. More information can be found further in this guidance under the heading “What support is available?”

## Use of AI

We can accept applications where AI has been used as it can help applicants when English is not their first language, as a prompt tool if you're new to writing applications or as an accessibility tool.

AI tools can be incredibly useful but please bear in mind the following considerations:

- It can often produce generic content which is not specific to your organisation or community. We can usually tell when an application has been created using AI, so please make it personalised so that we can gain an accurate picture of your organisations work.
- Check for any inaccuracies in the text or data provided as it is not always 100% accurate.
- The tools can store data inputted so do not submit personal or confidential information into them. It's not always clear how the data will be stored or used.
- There are ethical and environmental considerations to using and AI and it is a personal decision to use it.

## 10. Decision Making and Timeline

### How applications are assessed:

Our grants process has two stages.

### Stage One: Eligibility and due diligence

The LGBT+ Fund's grants team will review every application to confirm that it meets the eligibility criteria and to complete relevant due diligence checks. At this stage, the team does not assess the quality of applications or make decisions about which organisations should receive funding.



## **Stage Two: Youth Panel decision-making**

All eligible applications will be passed to our Youth Panel for assessment. Our panellists worked alongside us to design this fund, and they will make the decisions about which applications to fund.

Your application will be considered in line with the Fund's criteria and how strongly it demonstrates need and impact, with reference to the Fund's objectives.

Consortium's staff team may be in touch to ask additional questions as part of this process, but the final decision will be made by the Youth Panel.

Please be aware that an organisation's track record of meeting conditions of previous or existing grants and completing end of grant monitoring will be considered when assessing applications.

**We aim to let applicants know the outcome of their applications by the end of March 2027.**

## **11. What support is available?**

**We appreciate it may be some people's first time submitting a funding application and/or some people may find form-filling challenging.** We want to remove as many barriers to receiving funding as possible through this Fund.

The Giving team are available to provide support and advice with your application. We can do a supported application where we accept application form answers via a call. If you require any help in preparing or submitting your application, including a request for an alternative reasonable adjustment, then you can request assistance:  
**[giving@consortium.lgbt](mailto:giving@consortium.lgbt)**

**If you think you may need assistance in applying, please get in contact early once the Fund opens to ensure there's enough time for the team to provide appropriate support, as there may not be capacity closer to the deadline. Please ensure you have read the guidance before emailing us where possible.**

## **12. Reporting on your grant**

**Once your grant has been fully spent, we will send you a short monitoring report for you to complete.** This report asks for information on how your grant was spent and what you achieved.



You can also report back on how your grant went via video or through a conversation with The Giving Team. We will be in touch during throughout the year to see how grantees are doing and if there's any additional support we can offer.

## 13. Data Protection

We use the data you provide, such as contact details for individuals at your organisation, in order to allow you to apply and for us to assess your application.

If your grant is successful, we will use this data to check that the grant is being managed appropriately and maintain contact with you.

We are working in Partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund for LGBT+ Fund: The Youth Joy Fund. We will share limited details of successful applicants from the Fund in line with our Grants Data Privacy Notice.

