



Guidance: Women and Girls Initiative

This initiative, which will fund projects that work with women and girls, is now closed to initial enquiries, but if you would like more advice about our other open funding streams then please check our website or contact our Big Advice Team on 0345 4 10 20 30.

Frequently asked questions

1. I have missed the 17th July 2015 deadline, can I still register my interest in applying for funding from the Women & Girls Initiative (WGI)?

No. We have received significant interest (over 500 expressions of interest) in this initiative and given we will only be able to make in the region of 70 awards, we will not be extending this deadline.

However, if you have an idea that you think would have been eligible for this funding, then we would advise that you contact the Big Advice Team on 0345 4 10 20 30 to discuss applying for our open and/or demand led funding streams: Reaching Communities and Awards For All.

2. I have registered an interest in the initiative with the Big Advice Team, but I have not been called back by a Funding Officer yet. When can I expect to hear from someone?

We have received 500 enquiries to WGI, and so we have a lot of calls to make. We are hoping to have completed all of our follow up calls to groups by the end of August 2015; however you should hear from us by 7th August to arrange a convenient time to speak to you about your project idea. We are really grateful to groups for their patience during this time, as we appreciate having to wait can be frustrating.

If you have not heard from us by 7th August please do contact us at womenandgirls@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

If you have expressed an interest and have a brief written summary of your project idea that you would like to share with us ahead of your call please do email this to your funding officer once you know who this is.

3. We have changed our project idea significantly since our call with our Funding Officer, what should we do?

In the first instance you should call your Funding Officer and tell them of this change before the end of August 2015. If you have changed your idea since speaking with the Big Advice Team and have not yet been called by a funding officer, then please wait for this call to be scheduled first and inform us of the changes you would like to make as part of this call.

4. Why are you prioritising this work and this sector?

There were three triggers for our interest in this area:



- Sector experts and other funders told us that the women and girl's sector was being especially hard hit at the moment in terms of statutory funding cuts;
- Service users from the Complex Needs strategic programme told us that women were significantly under-represented within those services.
- Issues that women and girls face persist

Over the last decade or so the women and girl's sector has grown in strength, in size and in capability. Issues that were once marginalised, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence and exploitation, have emerged as mainstream concerns, and women and girl's sector agencies lead as the source of lots of best practice and creative initiatives.

For a variety of reasons the sector has been disproportionately affected by recent public sector cuts (e.g. services addressing violence against women and girls have received a cut of 31 per cent, greater than the average 27 percent reduction in local authority budgets). This comes at a time when the sector had been building real momentum and driving changes including how agencies deal with issues affecting women and girls, such as domestic abuse. Many of the issues the sector deals with – violence and abuse, sexual exploitation, forced marriage and female genital mutilation – have never been so prominent. As a result demand for women and girl's sector services has been growing at pace, just as the sector's ability to respond has been drastically reduced.

We also know that these issues are persistent. On average, two women a week are killed by a violent partner or ex-partner in the UK (DoH, 2005), with one in four women experiencing domestic violence during their lifetime (Scott & McNeish, 2014). one in five women, aged 16–59 will experience some form of sexual violence during their lifetime. BAMER and migrant women experience a disproportionate rate of domestic homicide (Southall Black Sisters and End Violence Against Women Coalition, 2011) and up to three million women and girls across the UK experiencing rape, domestic violence, stalking or other forms of violence (Coy et al, 2009). Almost one in three girls at school have experienced unwanted sexual touching (YouGov, 2010).

5. How do you define the 'primary purpose' of the organisation?

By primary purpose we mean one of two things:

- a. Your organisation has been established with the key aim of working with women and girls only or
- b. Your majority of beneficiaries served by your organisation are and will continue to be women and girls, and the majority of your services will reflect this. By the majority we mean that above 80% of clients have been and will continue to be women and girls.

If you are an organisation that has a wider remit, but run some specialist women and girls services as part of your wider offer, we are still interested to hear from you, and suggest you look at our guidance for Reaching Communities.

6. Is there a 'boys and men initiative'?

No – but our other funding streams are open to males and females ensuring fair access to funding for men and boys. Also while work with boys and men shouldn't be the main focus of the work supported through the Women and Girls Initiative, if the applicant is a women and girls



organisation and, as part of a wider piece of work they want to do some work with boys and/or men – for example awareness-raising about gender inequality – then that would be fine.

7. Can I apply for work with perpetrators of domestic abuse?

If a women and girls organisation wants to apply for work with perpetrators of domestic abuse this is fine as, in practice this work should always include support work with the victims and the focus on perpetrator work is to prevent future victimisation of women and children.

8. I run a women-only project but not for a women and girls sector organisation. Is this initiative right for me?

No. If your organisation is a generic one working with both men and women, it will not be eligible to apply for any women and girls specific projects. However, you may still be able to apply to the Fund through a different route. Please check our website for alternative funding options, but in particular you may want to look at Reaching Communities.

9. You have advertised that you are making awards up to £45M but then I have seen the total investment in this initiative is for £48.5 M. Where is the remaining £3.5 M being spent?

We have set aside up to £3.5M for support and development and evaluation activities in support of the grants we will be making. If not all of this resource is used, whatever remains will be added to the £45M grant making pot.



References:

1. Department of Health (2005) Responding to domestic abuse (London: DH) http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4126619.pdf
2. Women & Girls at Risk: Evidence across the life course (August 2014) – Dr Sara Scott & Dr Di McNeish
3. Southall Black Sisters and End Violence Against Women Coalition (2011) op cit.
4. Coy, M., Lovett, J. and Kelly, L., (2009) Realising Rights, Fulfilling Obligations: A Template for an Integrated Strategy on Violence Against Women for the UK, End Violence Against Women Coalition. Available at http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/38/realising_rights-jul-08.pdf
5. YouGov Ltd (2010) End Violence Against Women Poll Results. Available at <http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/preventing-violence-against-women>

