



UK Research
and Innovation

Welcome to the Community Research Networks funding call launch

Shaping a fairer future

We are the UK's home for community research and social innovation

About

The Young Foundation is the UK's home for community research and social innovation. As a not-for-profit, we bring communities, organisations and policymakers together to shape a fairer future, driving positive change and supporting collective action to improve people's lives.

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Why a fund for Community Research Networks?

Listening to what would make a difference

- ❖ Scoping Research with over sixty community representatives and leaders, including a community steering group.
- ❖ Key ask was: how can involvement between communities and R&I be more equitable and sustainable?
- ❖ Workshops discussed:
 - ❖ what knowledge and 'engagement' means to different layers of community
 - ❖ what involvement in knowledge creation or access to knowledge would be valuable
 - ❖ what could a vision of an expanded system of knowledge creation look like.

What we found

- ❖ Involvement of communities has been limited to forms of 'taking part' – rather than deciding or owning the knowledge agenda about them.
- ❖ Common limitation of past approaches is the short-term nature of funding, the focus on funding 'projects' not 'power' for communities to do research themselves.
- ❖ Community groups are not typically able to hold and control research funding as the lead party which affects who has power over the research agenda.
- ❖ The focus of funding calls, application processes, short-term timescales, lack of support and lack of training all create barriers to more equitable community involvement.

What we found

- ❖ Knowledge is alive and well in communities, with local groups, partnerships and assets.
- ❖ But it is underfunded, under-recognised and undervalued by policymakers and the research 'system' – and disconnected from local research organisations.
- ❖ Different places and certain groups have different access to funding, resources, knowledge assets – and unequal opportunities for partnership with research organisations.
- ❖ Owning or having an equal role over the knowledge that affects you is a social justice issue, and...
- ❖ ...it can be transformative, empowering and build community strength.

How this fund responds

- ❖ Applicants can decide and define what type of knowledge is useful to their community's need.
- ❖ No set theme – what you want to do and the scope is set by community need and you make the case.
- ❖ No prescriptive activities to work out what your network will focus on and do.
- ❖ Lead partner must be a community organisation (see eligible list)
- ❖ Research organisations or individual academics can be partners – but not lead.



How this fund responds

- ❖ Support throughout application process
- ❖ Funding to develop your partnership and idea (£25,000)
- ❖ Freedom to fail if it doesn't work out – and freedom to try new and innovative partnerships
- ❖ Support package throughout your pilot phase to help grow your future plans, and
- ❖ Support to make your application for longer term funding

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Practical Information about how to apply

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When to apply

- ❖ Applications for phase one
(Expression of Interest) open
25 July 2022
- ❖ Applications close
14 September 2022 (11 am)
- ❖ Successful applicants
announced
17 October 2022

How to apply

- ❖ Identify whether having a knowledge asset or research network would be useful to the communities you work with
- ❖ Identify potential partners you would like to explore building a research network with – you don't have to have a formal partnership at the moment
- ❖ Identify which community partner will lead – guidance on who is eligible from Innovate UK
- ❖ Call us, email us and talk through your idea if you need to.
- ❖ Attend a further support session or webinar (dates to be announced).
- ❖ Stay in touch as you put together your application for the pilot phase.

Where to apply

- ❖ Applications should be made through the Innovation Funding Service of Innovate UK.
- ❖ More information:
ukri.org/opportunity/community-research-networks/
- ❖ For support:
 - ❖ Email: hi@icstudies.org.uk
 - ❖ Phone: 0800 211 8214 (toll free, Monday to Friday, 9.30am – 5pm)



Thank you!

youngfoundation.org/faqs/

ukri.org/opportunity/community-research-networks/

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