



ABCD Pathfinder Expression of Interest FAQs

Below is a summary of frequently asked questions regarding the ABCD pathfinder open grant call. For further information, please contact the team at ABCD@leeds.gov.uk

Q. Can organisations submit partnership applications for the grant?

A. Yes, applications can be submitted in partnership with other organisations. Smaller grassroots organisations may wish to seek support from larger groups to act as a local trusted organisation to support with administrative functions.

Q. What is the expectation for how the £25,000 grant is spent?

A. Of the £25,000, £23,000 includes the recruitment of the Community Builder as well as a percentage towards organisational overheads in delivering the grant. You can outline this within your budget breakdown in the application. £2,000 is reserved for Small Sparks.

Q. What are small sparks?

A. Small sparks are small grants that fund groups and individuals to support local activity. How much of the sparks grant is awarded for each activity is to the discretion of the Community Builder based on the activity the community seeks to fund.

Q. Can you give some guidance on expectations around the number of days the Community Builder would work, and would you expect organisation to pay in line with the Real Living Wage?

A. It is your decision as an organisation how you would deliver the Community Builder role and if you would seek to pay the Real Living Wage. Each organisation is different in terms of how the pathfinders have decided to use this. We request a budget breakdown as part of the expression of interest to understand how you propose the Community Builder role will be structured and a breakdown of overheads. Each community is different and so each role will be different. Some of our existing pathfinders match fund the role to expand capacity, some recruit more than one Community Builder in the role, or fund small sparks from their own Community fund to maximise the budget on the builder role. If the ABCD team have further questions on your budget and delivery breakdown we will contact you to clarify.

Q. What do you mean by a “community of interest?” and how do we apply?

‘Communities of Interest’. Communities of Interest (COIs) are under-served groups of people or communities who are more likely to experience health inequity. They usually share an identity, for example people with a learning disability, or an experience, for example people who are homeless. If your group or organisation represent a community of interest and wish to apply for the grants with support from Forum Central, please speak to Mary.Halsey@forumcentral.org.uk regarding an application.



Q. What are your expectations on the content of the expression of interest?

A. We are interested in seeing through the expression of interest your knowledge and experience of ABCD, as well as your vision as an organisation for implementing the grant and embedding ABCD within your organisation and community. You must also evidence that you meet the key criteria to apply. If you do not meet this, then we will be unable to consider your application. Please refer to the guidance pack for further information.

Q. What happens after we have submitted the expression of interest?

A. A panel comprised of the ABCD in Leeds team and Community Builders will be reviewing and score applications based on the answers to the questions provided in the application form. In our scoring we will look for evidence of:

- Your understanding of ABCD and asset-based approaches
- Experience of delivering ABCD and asset-based activity in communities
- Evidence of innovation, creativity and understanding of the tools needed to grow ABCD in communities

Q. How will I know if we have been shortlisted from the expression of interest?

A. A member of the ABCD team will contact you and advise if your application has been successful or not. Successful applicants will be sent stage 2 of the application.

Q. Can we know what areas you are funding for and can this be city wide or regional work?

A. ABCD is placed based and starts small within neighbourhoods. The area locations for Leeds are set out in the guidance document. The grant is not for funding work at a city wide or regional level.

Q. If we are shortlisted, what happens next?

A. You will be invited to attend an in-person conversation, hosted by a panel comprised of the ABCD in Leeds team and Community Builders, to discuss your ideas for delivering the ABCD Pathfinder scheme in your area. These questions have been devised in partnership with our existing Pathfinder sites and Community Builders. Further information on this stage of the application will be shared at point of shortlisting and accompanying guidance will be provided.



Q. What would be the expectations of a Community Connector? What would make them an active member?

A. Community Connectors are people who live in the local area who want to help and/or join in to nurture community. The Connectors a Community Builder identifies may change and people may cease being Connectors. You can find the “what is a Community Connector” factsheet in the information pack. There are no prescribed expectations on a Connector.

Q. Does the community that we serve have to be based on locality area?

A. Three areas have been identified where place-based third sector organisations and communities of interest are welcome to apply for the grants outlined in the guidance pack. The decision to open grant applications to these areas have been informed by conversations with partners. We wouldn't expect a pathfinder to cover the whole area. You can outline how you would approach working in the area in your application. ABCD starts with a focus at a small neighbourhood level, almost street by street, then growing organically through building on the connections, strengths, skills and assets of the local community.

Q . Can Community Connectors be remunerated?

A. This is a decision for your organisation to make.

Q. In the application, does the organisation have to have identified a Community Builder and can they be seconded from their substantive role in the organisation?

A. Applicants may already have someone in mind for the Community Builder role already working within the organisation, however our preference would be for organisations to hold an open application process as we have asked this of all our pathfinder grants. We can give guidance on this and support with the recruitment process, but it is for you as an organisation to decide how to recruit.

Q. What progress reporting is expected?

A. The monitoring is intentionally light touch as we are most interested in hearing about the stories of communities, the impact of the work. We meet with pathfinder sites every 6 months to discuss monitoring. We ask that the Community Builder shares a "story so far" every 3 months to help us build a case study of a Community Connectors journey to demonstrate the impact of the work. We don't ask for things such as postcode or equalities data. We do ask that you tell us how many Community Connectors you have identified and how many self-reliant groups have been established.

We are interested in developing ripple effect mapping with pathfinder sites to help measure the impact of the model in communities. Should you be awarded the grant we will expect you to work in partnership with us to develop our work around impact measurement.



Q. What if I have something specific about the application I want to ask not covered in the FAQs?

A. Please email the ABCD in Leeds team on ABCD@leeds.gov.uk

Q. Do I have to submit a written application?

A. We will accept audio or video applications. Please see the guidance pack for further information.