



Communities Experiencing Racial Inequality III

Criteria and Guidelines

Introduction

We are delighted to announce that after the successful delivery of The Global Majority Fund Phase I, funded by Comic Relief and National Emergencies Trust, Next Step Initiative (NSI) will once again be providing small grants as well as organisational development support to the Global Majority ethnic groups across Scotland.

The aim is to strengthen some of the previously funded organisations in The Global Majority fund Phase I and ensure that they are able to undertake vital organisational development initiatives and are well positioned to continue making sustainable impact in underserved and marginalised communities across Scotland. Grants in this stream can be used for core costs as well as the delivery of activities.

We will be giving out grants to registered Charities, voluntary and community organisations that are led by and for Global Majority ethnic groups across Scotland. Funding Applications will open on the **8th of April, 2024** and close on the **26th of April 2024 at 12noon**. We anticipate that all 51 previously

funded organisations will apply and recommend applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

If you require additional information on this project, kindly send an email to grants@nextstepinitiative.org.uk. We will aim to respond to your enquiry as quickly as possible.

Definition of The Global Majority Ethnic Communities

This refers to African, Caribbean & Ethnic Minority led charities and community groups, as reflected in the representation of staff and trustees. At least 75% of the management committee of these groups should be from African, Caribbean & Ethnic communities.

Who can apply?

You can apply if your community group is either:

1. An African, Caribbean & Ethnic Minority charity registered in Scotland.
2. Previously received grants from NSI (The Global Majority Fund Phase 1)
3. A constituted African, Caribbean & Ethnic minority voluntary or community organisation across Scotland with governing documents which clearly state that:
 - a) The organisation is not for profit or has a clear clause ensuring that all income is applied to the organisation's purposes and not distributed to members, shareholders or owners.
 - b) There is a dissolution clause/lock in place requiring assets are

distributed to an organisation with similar charitable aims in the instance of closure.

We cannot accept applications from:

- I. Individuals.
- II. Organisations that are not established as not for profit.
- III. Organisations based outside Scotland.
- IV. One organisation applying on behalf of another.
- V. Organisations that are not led by individuals from the Global Majority.
- VI. Organisations with an annual income of over Two hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds (£250,000).

Priorities

We want to enable the development of organisations and the delivery of activities geared towards recovery from the cost of living crisis. We are particularly interested in African, Caribbean and Ethnic Minority organisations/community groups where projects and services are initiated and led by people with lived experience, and strong applications are likely to reflect this way of working. We realise that this is not always possible but as a minimum all applications should be informed by and involve people with lived experiences of issues the organisations seek to address.

As part of the plan to ensure sustainability and continuous impact, we will also consider organisations at threat of closure arising from the cost of living crisis. Generally, we seek to fund projects that are community led and with

clear priorities and demonstratable impact on organisational development.

How much can you apply for?

Grants are up to a maximum of £25,000. Funding can be used across a period of 18 months but must be fully spent by the **31st of October, 2025** or as communicated in your offer letter.

What can you use the money for?

Every organisation is unique and has different needs and ideas. We will provide grants to applicants that are aspirational and innovative whilst demonstrating how the grant received will empower members of the Global Majority ethnic Communities across Scotland. We will consider a combination of core costs and activities. In writing your application, consider what you need this funding for e.g. project and/ or running costs. We are particularly interested in the difference your planned activities will have for community members. This may include expanded outreach, improved quality and capacity. We are also interested in how the grant will support you to try new ideas, take risks, or new approaches that involve members of the community.

What we cannot fund

1. The following are projects we cannot fund:
2. Crisis intervention with no clear evidence of longer term support, e.g. food parcels, toy/gift distribution.

3. Retrospective funding.
4. Major capital costs including building projects, motor vehicles and refurbishment costs.
5. Work that takes place outside of Scotland
6. Bursaries or scholarships.
7. Contributions to funds which will be used for grant making to other organisations and/or individuals.
8. Animal welfare.
9. Promotion of religion.
10. Activities which are party political.
11. Mainstream activities and statutory requirements, for example of hospitals and medical centres, schools, universities and colleges.
12. One-off events, unless part of a larger project.
13. Sponsorship or marketing appeals.

Key principles

It is important that charities and organisations working with communities are well run, manage funds properly, and treat people fairly. This can be demonstrated by:

1. Operating with effective safeguarding policies and procedures that protect the safety of vulnerable groups. This includes having a named safeguarding representative, providing regular training for staff and volunteers, operating with clear steps to take in the event of an incident or disclosure, and ensuring that people working with children are subject to relevant checks, i.e. Disclosure Scotland.
2. Working with openness and transparency.

3. Complying with relevant regulation/inspection.
4. Having a strong commitment to equal opportunities and inclusivity.
5. Fulfilling your duties as a responsible employer, if applicable.
6. Listening to, and actively involving, the people who use your group or service.
7. Keeping proper accounting records, including the recording of all money received and spent by your organisation and the production of annual figures/accounts signed and dated by the Chair or Treasurer. Please see our application guidance notes for more information.
8. Operating with good governance including:
 - I. having a governing body which has a minimum of three Committee Members, Trustees or Directors;
 - II. If there are family members on the board/committee that there is always one independent member;
 - III. Meeting at least quarterly;
 - IV. Any payments to members of the committee/board being detailed in a formal written agreement.

Application and assessment process

All applications will be reviewed by a grant assessor. If we require further clarification(s), we will get in touch with the main contact for this application. Please note that we are unable to discuss the probable outcome of your application. We will communicate decisions to applicants by email. We aim to take a decision within 4 weeks upon receipt of your application.

Please email completed application form and supporting documents to:

grants@nextstepinitiative.org.uk

If you have any questions about the fund or want to discuss your ideas before completing the application form then please email us

smallgrants@nextstepinitiative.org.uk

Next Step Initiative

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Next Step Initiative is a Scottish Charity Incorporation Organisation registered in Scotland (SCIO: 041305).

Comic Relief spends money raised by its fundraising campaigns, Red Nose Day & Sport Relief. Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England and Wales), SC039730 (Scotland).