

The Places Foundation Impact Fund 2024/25

Thank you for requesting further information on Impact Funding. Within this application pack you will find information on the Impact Fund, how to apply and some resources to help you write your application.

Please read the information provided **BEFORE** you write your bid and ensure your project resonates strongly with both our **priority themes** and **IMPACT criteria**. The Impact Funding is open to not-for-profit organisations and eligibility is outlined in this pack. **Projects that fall outside of these will not be funded.**

In addition to all of our priority themes outlined in the application pack, in 2024/25 we are particularly interested in:

- **projects which take place in areas where Places for People have a presence and/or which positively impact or customers and communities**
- **projects that provide opportunities to employment and training.**

The guidance notes explain what we expect from you in your answers. If you don't follow the guidance it is unlikely you will have a strong and compelling bid.

If you want to discuss your project informally before you write your bid, please contact me and I will be happy to help.

Jamie Dickinson
Group Head of Social Value
Places Foundation
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1. Introduction to the Places Foundation Impact Fund

- 1.1. Places Foundation is an independent charity established by the Places for People Group. The Charity's objective is **'to improve the quality of life for people and communities particularly those who suffer disadvantage as a result of exclusion from the labour market and inadequate access to essential services'**.
- 1.2. The Charity is focused on creating social impact through three main areas of activity: deploying grants, using social investment, and raising external funding. The IMPACT Fund is a grants programme which will enable us to provide **up to £25k** in funding for projects which can deliver positive change.
- 1.3. In 2024 The Impact Fund will provide financial support for activity which delivers outcomes which contribute to our **four priority themes**:
- **Improved health and wellbeing** (e.g. increasing physical activity, improving mental health or reducing loneliness).
 - **Providing opportunities to access education, training and employment** (e.g. education or training)
 - **Sustaining tenancies, strengthening financial and digital inclusion** (e.g. supporting people to cope with financial challenges or remotely delivered digital/financial literacy training)
 - **Sustainable and resilient communities** (e.g. tackling food poverty, supporting local front-line charities).

2. The Impact Fund

- 2.1. The IMPACT fund is designed to support the Charity's objectives, to pilot, deliver and scale approaches which create a positive social impact. To be eligible to apply, **organisations must be a constituted not for profit organisation**, including: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Charitable company (limited by guarantee), Social enterprise, Trust, Community Interest Company (CIC). The charity has developed IMPACT criteria:
- **Innovative**: New ideas to deliver social change are tested.
 - **Measurable**: Effective processes are in place to measure social impact and learn.

- Purposeful: All activities are directed at addressing a clear social issue in a timely way that aligns with our charitable objectives.
- Accessible: Services will be accessible and inclusive.
- Collaborative: We will work in partnership across other organisations.
- Transferable: Approaches that we test will have the potential to be replicated across organisations in other neighbourhoods.

Projects which resonate strongly with these criteria are more likely to secure funding. Your application must outline how each of these principles inform your project and its delivery.

2.2. In 2024/25 the funding available to each project will be **up to £25k** and we are looking to support a spread of small and larger projects. **Typically a project will be under £10k.** By exception, we are occasionally able to fund larger projects. If your project requires funding that is greater than £25k, please contact Jamie Dickinson prior to submitting your application to discuss your project.

- We encourage all applicants to apply if their project meets at least one of our four priority themes. In 2024/25 we will particularly welcome and prioritise applications that deliver **training and employment outcomes and/or positively impact or customers and communities.**

2.3. The fund is open to **not-for-profit organisations** (outlined in Section 2.1). It is the applicants responsibility to ensure that the project is delivered effectively and to ensure that the necessary reporting is completed accurately and on time. All applications will be required to sign and return the SLA.

2.4. The Places Foundation can only support projects or initiatives which fulfil the following criteria:

- Delivery is located in a geographical area where a clear **social need has been identified** which may or may not overlap with the Group's stock.
- Have a clear link with the **objectives and outcomes** of the Places Foundation Charity.
- Delivers a broader **social, economic, or environmental impact.**

2.5. What can be funded? Projects must fulfil the criteria outlined in section 2.4 to be considered. While capital funding (i.e. large purchases such as vehicles, premises or large pieces of equipment) isn't excluded it would be the exception rather than the rule and would need strong justification.

2.6. What can't be funded? Retrospective costs, one off event or items that will have no longer-term impact, existing staff costs or any costs that don't relate directly to the project.

2.7. Who can apply? Organisations must be a constituted not-for-profit organisation, including: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Charitable company (limited by guarantee), Social enterprise, Trust, Community Interest Company (CIC). Additionally, any employee of the Places for People Group but please ensure you have your line-manager's permission to submit the application. If you are successful in your application, you will need your line manager to agree to the project and sign an agreement.

2.8. How do I apply? Please complete the Application form. Completed Application Forms must be received by Jess Mock via grants@placesforpeople.co.uk by 5:00 pm on Friday 20th September 2024. Late entries will not be accepted. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

2.9. What happens next? Grants will require approval from the Places Foundation Trustees, so it is likely to be November before they are able to consider your application. We'll keep you updated of progress or delays during this time.

2.10. What happens if I am unsuccessful? We can't fund all projects so you may be refused funding however you can reapply (with a substantively different project) to subsequent rounds. We may also be able to help you identify alternative sources of funding.

Timescales

- Fund opens for applications – Wednesday 28th August 2024
- Deadline for applications – 5:00 pm on Friday 20th September 2024
- Successful applicants notified – 6-8 weeks after the deadline date

Please complete the Application form. Completed Application Forms must be received by Jess Mock via grants@placesforpeople.co.uk by **5:00 pm on Friday 20th September 2024**. Late entries will not be accepted.

Key Contacts

Key contact for further information please contact Jess Mock, Social Impact Project Coordinator: Jessica.mock@placesforpeople.co.uk. If you want to discuss your project idea – Jamie Dickinson, Group Head of Social Value: Jamie.dickinson@placesforpeople.co.uk