**Information for Applicants:   
New Beginnings Fund Criteria**

# HOW MUCH?

* The New Beginnings Fund will provide funding of up to £10,000 for each project.
* Partnerships can bid for up to £20,000.
* Bids for lower amounts are welcome.

WHO?

* ‘New Beginnings’ is a fund to help refugees and asylum seekers feel welcome in UK communities.
* The funding is for projects that bring refugees and asylum seekers together with other people in the local community.
* The funding is for community groups working in the UK.
* Community groups can be refugee-led or not.
* Partnership projects are welcome to apply. However we are not encouraging new partnerships to be set up in order to bid for New Beginnings.
* We want to fund some groups that work with asylum seeker children and young people. This might include unaccompanied children.
* We are looking for *projects* and *activities* that bring people together. The funding is not to start new *services*.

## Some examples of what we are looking for:

* Projects led by refugees and asylum seekers.
* Projects that involve people with direct experience of being a refugee / migrant.
* Projects led by community groups that want to support new arrivals.
* Groups that involve refugees and asylum seekers and other local people in planning which activities are needed and in delivering the project.
* Activities for the wider community and refugees and asylum-seekers to do together.
* Activities run by refugee-led groups in partnership with other local groups.
* Refugees leading activities in their community.
* Projects that get people volunteering and sharing their skills. For example asylum seekers teaching languages, refugees leading activities in the community, local residents demonstrating how to mend cars, mentoring young people.
* Projects that link refugees and asylum seekers to good opportunities, advice and counselling.
* Projects that include refugee and asylum seeker children and young people (18 years old and younger)

We aim to strengthen planning and communication skills so that people can support integration effectively. We can provide advice on how to do this.

All projects should support human rights and equality.

# HOW DID THE FUND START?

New Beginnings has already had a successful ‘pilot’ stage. The fund began when a consortium of funders noticed that the increase in migrants to the UK was putting strain on community groups.

They also noticed that more people in the UK wanted to support refugees and asylum seekers.

The funders felt that the best way to help was to fund small community groups. 45 groups were funded by the pilot. These were either refugee-led groups or local residents working to welcome refugees and asylum seekers.

The aim of the fund is to increase community-based support for refugees and asylum seekers.

# ELIGIBILITY

This fund should **not** be used for anything that receives statutory funding. The fund cannot be used to fund:

* Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement scheme activities.
* Any other statutory funded activities.

*We* ***do*** *want to fund small refugee-led community groups and neighbourhood groups.* ***If you do not meet all the eligibility criteria we can help.*** *If you have a good project but feel you do not meet all the eligibility criteria please get in touch.*

If you are not a formal group you can apply in partnership with a formal group that fulfils the eligibility criteria below.

Groups with income of more than £500,000 are not eligible. However if you have a good idea for a project please get in touch. Your ideas may help us plan future funding programmes.

## Eligibility criteria:

Open to any:

* Registered UK charity
* Charitable Incorporated Organisation
* Company Limited by Guarantee;
* not for profit registered Community Interest Company;
* Constituted community and voluntary sector organisation

You must have a minimum of three committee members who are not relatives

You must have a governing document (Constitution, Memorandum & Articles or Set of rules)

You must have a bank account in the organisation’s name

You must have up-to-date accounts or record of income and expenditure

You must have a recent trustees annual report if you are a charity, unless you are a new group.

You must give evidence of an increase in demand for services OR an increase in enquiries from the public wanting to support you OR BOTH. For example phone or email enquiries.

You must have a ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults’ policy and procedure

If you work with children you must have a ‘Safeguarding Children’ policy and procedures

And if you work with children and young people all staff, volunteers and trustees must be trained in safeguarding. This is a condition of the funding

You must have an equal opportunities policy

Grants are for the duration of one year

Grants of £1000 to £10,000 are available for individual groups

Grants of up to £20,000 are available for partnership projects. A lead organisation needs to make the application. We are looking for partnerships between refugee-led groups and other community groups. The partnership can be more than two groups – consortium bids are welcome.

If you are

* not constituted
* an informal group
* or a collective

you should apply in **partnership with an eligible organisation.** The eligible organisation must be part of delivering the project. The eligible organisation must manage the grant.

If you are a national organisation you must demonstrate strong local connections.

## We will shortlist applications using these priorities:

* Small, local groups
* Groups with an income of under £500,000. This includes groups with much lower income

Income, expenditure and reserves will be looked at when your application is assessed

* Groups that give reasons why the project is needed locally. Evidence of an increase in demand for services OR an increase in enquiries from the public wanting to support you OR BOTH. For example, more emails, telephone calls or visitors
* Groups that give examples of similar projects where the methods used have achieved results

(We want groups to think about their impact and how to show that their methods work. Examples included in the application can be from another group and even examples found online)

* Groups that show they are thinking about how the project can continue after the New Beginnings funding ends (thinking about sustainability / succession strategies)
* Groups where staff and volunteers are refugees or asylum seekers.  
  (We aim for at least 40% of grant funding to be for groups staffed by refugees and asylum seekers / people with migrant experience)
* Projects that work with child refuges and asylum seekers age 18 and under. This includes unaccompanied children  
  (We aim to use 30% of the funding for groups that work with refugee and asylum seeker children)
* Groups that work together to put on activities and events
* Groups working with multiple nationalities

### Activities we will not fund:

* Statutory services
* Activities delivered as part of the funding received for the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement scheme.  
  (Activities that include Syrian refugees are welcome, but this fund is not for activities that are part of the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement scheme.)
* Activities promoting party political activity
* Major capital costs (purchases of smaller items is okay, even if they will be used after the project)
* Individual sponsorship
* Activities generating private profit
* Faith groups are welcome to apply but activities which evangelise or proselytise religious beliefs will not be eligible. Projects that only work with one faith are also not eligible.
* ‘Mythbusting’ activity. Research shows that sharing facts and figures about refugees and asylum seekers isn’t always helpful. Instead we want to fund opportunities for local communities to meet and spend time with refugees and asylum seekers. We can help you raise awareness. A good start is this study by British Future: <http://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/How-to-Talk-About-Immigration-briefly.pdf>

#### What do we want from a Safeguarding Policy?

* The group has its own safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures. We can help with drafting these.
* The policy should include definitions of abuse and signs of abuse and reporting procedure in case of disclosure.
* All members of the group can clearly explain what steps to take in case of suspicion or disclosure of abuse.
* Everyone, including children and young people knows about and uses safeguarding in their day-to-day work.
* The policy should include the name of the person responsible for child protection.
* All staff and volunteers have the appropriate checks.   
  (Checks on all eligible staff, volunteers and members of the governing board are a condition of the grant. In England and Wales these are ‘DBS’ checks. In Scotland a check by the ‘PVG’ scheme. In Northern Ireland it is an ‘Access NI’ check. These checks are for people working directly with, or with access to, children and young people.)
* Staff, volunteers or trustees who do not work directly with children and young people should be trained on safeguarding. Training should be up-to-date. (Training on safeguarding for all staff, volunteers and trustees is a condition of the New Beginnings Grant. This can be done online.)
* The group should take steps to ensure children and young people in their care are safe. For example doing risk assessments for activities, ensuring staff hold relevant qualifications, and providing adequate training to volunteers.

* **A Vulnerable Adults Policy** includes a description of how abuse is different for adults.

#### What do we want from an Equality and Diversity Policy?

* References Equality Act 2010
* Make sure it covers: age; being married or in a civil partnership or not; being pregnant or having a child; disability; race; religion/belief or lack of; gender; sexual orientation; being or becoming a transsexual person
* Equal access to services
* Employment
* Preventing harassment and ensuring everyone is treated equally
* Complaints are dealt with fairly
* An understanding of how it applies to your organisation