

Arts Council of Wales

# COVID-19: Support for Individuals

## Stabilisation Fund

# Additional Clarifications

May 2020

1. “Academics or other education professionals” are listed under those who are ineligible. However, there are individuals who work in an academic or educational setting to supplement their creative practice. Would this make them ineligible for this fund?

We recognise that many creative practitioners have a portfolio career. Those who work in an academic or educational setting are eligible to apply provided that more than 50% of their income comes from their freelance creative work. This funding cannot support activity that relates directly to academic or educational work.

2. There may be instances where an individual would like to submit a project where they would 'employ' others as an artist / mentor etc. for a few days or a week. If this is the case, can people be named / involved in more than 2 applications? This wouldn't be a collective – they wouldn't be equal collaborators and they may, for example, only be paid a few days/weeks fee. If this is the case can those people be involved in more than 2 projects?

As stated in our guidance we wouldn't expect any individual to be part of more than one individual and one group / collaborative application. However, we recognise that people may be involved in different projects at different levels of activity and time. Individuals will be able to be paid for work on other projects in a different role e.g. as a mentor, critical friend, someone who provides specific artform expertise etc. and could therefore be paid for work on a number of other projects through this fund.

Applicants will need to consider their level of involvement and their capacity to deliver for each project in these instances.

3. Is it ok to work with (and pay) collaborators/mentors/other artists from outside Wales?

Provided an applicant can demonstrate a positive impact on their own practice and a specific public benefit to those living or working in Wales, they would be able to pay people from outside of Wales to work with them through this funding.

4. If people have a grant open with you, do they need to have submitted completion reports to apply for this fund?

You can have an open grant with us and still apply to this fund, although your capacity to undertake multiple projects may be taken into account during assessment.

We will not award funding to applicants that are in default of previous grant conditions, including where they have overdue completion reports.

5. Is capital expenditure allowed?

Yes, capital expenditure is allowed for equipment that will facilitate the proposal (e.g. digital equipment). This is capped at a maximum of £2,000 within your application.

6. The Stabilisation Fund does not cover 'activities taking place in schools' can you explain this as many creative practitioners' work is partly or predominantly around developing work with and for children and young people?

We have a specific programme of work that is being delivered to schools in Wales – [Creative Learning Through the Arts](#). This is designed in partnership with Welsh Government and Regional Consortia. Specific opportunities linked to Creative Learning have already been advertised, with further activities to be announced later in the year. Because of this, we won't be supporting schools-based projects from this programme, however proposals for projects for children and young people outside of schools will be considered, providing all other stated criteria is met.

7. The fund guidance documents seem very unclear as to what might constitute a project or activity that would help sustain future professional activity - and "develop, evolve, and sustain their work". Can you provide some more clarity here?

We are trying to keep this fund as open as possible to allow for appropriate responses to individual circumstances. Each individual faces their own challenges – this is why we want to be as flexible as possible, opening out options not closing them down.

Some individuals depend for work on the activities of arts organisations. We recognise that you might not be part of the discussions that arts organisations and others are having about the timescales for the re-opening of buildings. This will obviously affect the starting of activity and the impact of social distancing. All these things are changing day by day.

Wherever you can, try and find out what potential partners are planning. If you can't, then use your best imagination and knowledge of your sector to show what you feel you can offer / develop at this time. This might be activity that connects with audiences in new ways, or activity that supports and develops a change to creative practice. We're encouraging individuals to think imaginatively, to be bold and to be creative in thinking about what might be possible in a new world.

8. The guidance says that you won't accept applications for film / screen projects but does the list of supported disciplines (in 'Who Can Apply) include film?

Whilst not mentioning film specifically, we feel that this covers the aspects of film-making that we'd be likely to fund under digital arts or writing or producing original artistic/creative material.

There are also opportunities for funding available through [Ffilm Cymru Wales](#) which may be more relevant and you should explore these prior to making an application to us.

**9. I haven't received public funding before, am I eligible to apply?**

It depends. We want to support individuals to create and sustain their individual practice in Wales. But the focus of the funding that we offer must go to support those who have demonstrated a track record in the professional arts sector in Wales. Because our funding is public money, this also usually means supporting those who have received public funding or can show that they have worked in the not for profit arts sector.

We're delighted that in better times many artists can operate without the need for public funding. We value greatly the contribution that they make. However, we recognise that there are those who have previously worked 'for profit' who may now be looking at new ways to develop and sustain their artistic practice for increased public benefit.

The focus of any award made through this scheme will be those who develop and create original artistic work in one of our supported artforms, and, in doing so, reach out to new audiences and help promote a wider engagement with the arts. We want to support creative practitioners to enhance their creative practice, invest in skills that will help them build a sustainable career in Wales, or strengthen the business side of their practice. So, if you've not previously received public funding, you may be able to do so if you can show that these and other criteria can be met.

**10. I'm a musician/in a band that creates original music with a track record. Can I apply?**

Yes. You'll need to demonstrate a proven track record, that a significant amount of your practice is based on your music making and that the activity you propose is appropriate to where you are in your career. For example, you may have had a team in place and were planning to release music, but now need to adapt those plans to focus on digital and take into account the lack of live work.

You'll need to make a case for the timeliness of this activity in your career and why it's important this activity still takes place. We'll also be looking for evidence that you have had public funding or been involved in supported projects in the past three years. This might be through the Arts Council or through our supported projects such as Horizons, Focus Wales, Trac, the PRS Foundation, PYST or Welsh Government.

If you are in a band, a member can apply on your behalf.

11. We have been asked for some clarification on eligibility for:

- freelancers who are classed as employees for PAYE purposes or;
- where more than 50% of normal income is not earned from direct arts activity as per our published criteria

The Stabilisation Fund for Individuals is a fund to assist those individuals most in need of support at this time. It is not a reopening of one of our regular Lottery project schemes and the eligibility criteria reflects this.

In terms of our definition of freelance work, we expect you to make a decision based on your own judgement of your employment status. We are not expecting you to use the HMRC definitions that decide whether you pay PAYE. You could be on the PAYE payroll of a company and still consider yourself to be a freelancer.

We have included the need to earn at least 50% of your income from your freelance work in order that we can fund those most in need at the moment. By doing this we can support those that have lost a large amount of their artistic income, although this is not intended to be an income replacement scheme. We would ask that you make a judgement on this by considering an appropriate time period (maybe your last tax return or something similar). By applying you will effectively be making a self declaration that you consider your freelance arts work 'normally' provides more than 50% of your income.

We will be relying heavily on the integrity of applicants to make these judgements that will allow us to support those most in need at this time.

We hope to open our more regular programmes at a later date (still to be decided). It may be more appropriate for you to apply to one of these programmes if you are eligible at the time.