

Organised Outdoor Community Play Fund

Supporting childhood health and wellbeing through outdoor play

Funding Criteria and Guidance

Introduction

Inspiring Scotland strives for a Scotland without poverty or disadvantage. We want to create a Scotland where everyone, no matter who they are, has the same opportunities to reach their potential and lead happy and healthy lives.

We have worked with Scottish Government for over 10 years to improve childhood health and wellbeing through play opportunities for children across Scotland. During this time, we have developed a number of approaches, resources and models that maximise the impact and delivery of outdoor play.

The Fund

On behalf of Scottish Government, we are seeking applications for funding to support childhood health and wellbeing through outdoor play via the Organised Outdoor Community Play Fund.

We know outdoor play is more important than ever at this time. It has a vital role in supporting better health and wellbeing for children. Being able to enjoy time outside once again, with friends, will aid children's ability to understand and come to terms with the months of restricted movement and isolation. Play, and indeed outdoor play, will be critical for children in their recovery. It will support in rebuilding their resilience after this pandemic, and aid in navigating the new way in which the world now operates.

Please note that this funding is for outdoor play only, therefore structured sports activities and sport related training are not eligible under this funding.

What is Play?

Play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development
(Play Scotland's Play Strategy)

"Children's play is any behaviour, activity or process initiated, controlled and structured by children themselves; it takes place whenever and wherever opportunities arise"

(General Comment 17, UNCRC)

For more information on Play please see <https://playscotland.org/play/>

The Organised Outdoor Community Play Fund for 2021/22 will provide financial support to eligible Scottish charities delivering outdoor play-based opportunities for children and families in areas of disadvantage (top 20% of SIMD).

It is expected that these interventions will broadly follow the Play Ranger model. However, recognising the importance of support for family play, this year's funding has widened to include a focus on supporting parents and facilitating family play. Charities can seek to work with children *and* their families to encourage them to play and learn together, help to improve attachments, strengthen bonds and parental confidence in supporting their children's play.

For more information on the Play Rangers model please see

<https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/publication/play-ranger-toolkit/>

At all times it is expected that successful applicants will adhere to the current national health guidelines when supporting and delivering the Organised Outdoor Community Play Fund.

Essential Criteria

Applications for up to **£25,000** will be considered, although the average award is likely to be less than this.

Essential Criteria: Applications will only be considered if they meet the following criteria:

- The applicant is a registered Scottish charity.
- The provision will be for interventions that support children and their families to access outdoor play sessions and resources.
- Only outdoor play will be supported.
- The outdoor play sessions must be free to access for the children and their families.
- The outdoor play sessions must be delivered in their local community.
- The charity applying has experience of providing outdoor play for children.
- Funding requested cannot duplicate any statutory, early learning and childcare or school provision.
- Provision targets areas of deprivation located in the top 2 deciles of deprivation - 20% SIMD (See Guidance below for information).

What is eligible within the funding

Interventions that support children and families to access outdoor play sessions in their community and resources which can include:

- ✓ Staffing of play sessions
- ✓ Equipment including outdoor clothing
- ✓ Food/snack during sessions
- ✓ Up to 10% core costs/management function of the charity

What is not eligible in an application

- × Applications from organisations that are not registered Scottish charities
- × Applications which are predominantly for capital expenditure
- × Applications for funding sport or training which are not free play activities.
- × Funding for significant core staff costs. Funding must be for new or additional staff hours and not replace existing staff costs.

Application Process

Applications can only be made online at: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4894295>

The closing date for applications is Midday on Monday April 26th

Scottish Government and Inspiring Scotland will undertake an assessment of your organisation and funding application. We may contact you during this process for clarification.

Once scoring and reviews are complete, funding decisions will be communicated to all applicants.

Application timeline

This is an indicative timeline dependant on volume of applications.

1. The application process will start **Midday on Thursday April 8th**
2. The closing date for applications is **Midday on Monday April 26th**
3. Review, due diligence and scoring of applications will take place between **April 27th – May 10th**
4. We anticipate that funding decisions will be communicated to charities before **May 14th**

Layout of Organised Outdoor Community Play Application form

The application form is broken down into 5 sections

Section 1: Contact details

Section 2: Details of your organisation: What services you currently provide, including your experience of providing outdoor play

Section 3: Financial information for your charity - please note you will need to upload annual report and accounts along with proof of bank details

Section 4: Details of proposed project:

- Project Outputs: Details of how many sessions/weeks/children and families supported
- Outcomes of project
- Project costs/funding requested

Please note you will need to complete an Excel doc with your budget and upload it.

Section 5: References of support

Guidance questions:

Section 1

Contact details: Please provide details of the main contact person in relation to this funding application. We will contact this person if we have any queries or need clarification on any part of the application.

Section 2

About your organisation –

Q 8 - I I Information about your organisation

Size of organisation including number of staff who are

Full time: Will usually work 35 hours or more a week on an employment contract

Part time: When a worker is contracted for anything less than 35 hours per week

Casual/Sessional Staff: A person not employed under a contract of employment. They are paid for undertaking work or a service on the basis of an agreed range of hours to be worked.

Q 12: Please give details of your charity and the type of activity you deliver. You can outline here if you have experience of delivering outdoor play.

Section 3

Financial Information

Q 13: Details of Income, Expenditure and Reserves for last 3 years.

Note: If you do not have information for all 3 years please input 0 as these are mandatory fields.

For information on unrestricted reserves and how to calculate your reserves please see:

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/charity-reserves-factsheet/I-what-are-reserves/>

Q 15: Please **upload** a copy of the charity's most recent annual report and accounts or, if a smaller organisation, your latest set of Management accounts.

Q 16: You must input the charity's bank details, including
Account number and Sort code
Bank Account Name (e.g. Jo's Play Charity)

Q 17: Please **upload** a recent bank statement which clearly shows the name of the account and corresponding account details.

Section 4:

Q 18: Please indicate the local authority in which you are delivering.

Q 19: Details of SIMD location

This funding is aimed at local community based outdoor play for children and their families in areas of Decile 1 and 2 of the Scottish Indices of Multiple deprivation (SIMD). To find out more about SIMD areas and to find decile information about the locations you wish to provide play in, please see:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

There is a postcode search available which may be helpful <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020v2-postcode-look-up/>

Q 21: Describe the outdoor play project you are seeking funding for:

This year's funding has widened to include a focus on supporting parents and facilitating family play. This not only builds on the awareness being raised on the benefits of outdoor play but provides parents and families with the support they need to develop their confidence and skills in playing positively with their children.

Your project can offer children-only sessions and/or family sessions.

Please clearly outline the details of your project, ensuring it is eligible within the funding parameters.

Q 22: Describe who will benefit from this funding:

This can include children as well as local families – children and their parents/guardians.

Q 23 - 25: Describe your staffing situation

Provide details of staffing and volunteers needed for this project.

Note: We realise that additional numbers of volunteers may reduce the number of children who can participate depending on current Covid guidelines, so do not worry if you enter 0 against this.

Q 26: **Project outputs:**

- Number of weeks of play provision
- Number of sessions provided
- Number of children / families to benefit
- Proposed start date of project

Note: If you are only delivering one type of provision (children or family session) please input 0 where not applicable.

Q 27: **Project Outcomes**

Please see below the 2 main outcomes which you will work towards in your proposed project.

This fund aims to achieve these outcomes for both children and their families:

- **Children and families have more opportunities to play outside leading to improved health and wellbeing outcomes**
 - An increased volume of play opportunities provided and taken up in the community
 - Children demonstrate improved health through their outdoor play activity, for example can play longer/faster, express enjoyment at being more physically active.
 - Children demonstrate improved wellbeing through their outdoor play activity, for example: expressing feeling better/happier/more confident, enjoying meeting and playing with friends, showing empathy.
 - Speaking about the impact of play sessions on parents/grandparents/siblings. Families report positive impact on children's health and wellbeing, such as improvements in behaviour, communication and relationships.
- **Children and families become more aware of the benefits of outdoor play**
 - More children and families engage in more outdoor activities in their community, in parks and natural greenspaces.
 - Children and families report increased understanding and recognise the benefits and value of playing outside.
 - Families report increased confidence in facilitating/supporting children's play outdoors.

Additional Outcomes: If there are any additional outcomes you will achieve and measure against please indicate what these outcomes you will work towards are. (Optional).

Q 28: You will need to discuss how these outcomes will be measured throughout the project. This could include registering change and development through observation, questionnaires or interviews.

Q 29: Project Costs

Input the total amount of funding you are requesting. The maximum amount of funding you can apply for is £25,000.

Q 30: You will need to provide a breakdown of all costs associated with this funding application. Download and complete the Excel budget template: <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/OOCP-Budget-Proposal.xlsx>

Please explain what each funding heading is broken down into and highlight if play sessions are family play or child-only play. Once your funding budget breakdown is completed you will need to **upload** your Excel budget template to the application form.

These costs can include

- ✓ Staffing of play sessions
- ✓ Equipment including outdoor clothing
- ✓ Provision of food/snack during sessions
- ✓ Up to 10% core costs/management function of the charity

Section 5

References

Please give contact details of a supporting senior management person and board member.

Please give contact details of a suitable reference for your organisation in relation to your proposed project/activity.

Contact

If you have any questions, or need more information on this funding application, please contact Jo Fitzpatrick, Inspiring Scotland jo@inspiringscotland.org.uk

Or see the Organised Outdoor Community Play Fund page for more details:

<https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/thrive-outdoors/organised-outdoor-community-play/>

Support from Inspiring Scotland

As well as funding, successful applicants will receive support from Inspiring Scotland and access to our Specialist Volunteer Network.

This network has more than 500 professionals who work in the private sector and volunteer their time and skills free of charge to support our work. Our volunteers range from lawyers, HR professionals and accountants to business mentors and marketing experts. They help the charities we support to address specific needs or build capacity.