

# **Cory Community Fund Questions from the Bexley training**

These questions came up as the Impact in Action project worked with the Cory Community Fund to create training and support to apply to the fund. Fiona from Cory and Karen from BVSC's Impact in Action project responded. The main source of information that you use for your application should remain the guidelines, leaflet and website. We will add to this document as people ask other questions.

## **General**

### **Q How much detail should we go into about our organisation, compared to that about the project?**

A Please do a brief summary of your organisation with more details about the project you are requesting money for. If it is helpful, you can do a summary in the form with an attachment for anyone on the Cory funder panel who would like further details.

### **Q What happens if, due to Covid rules, we can't complete the project that we apply for?**

A Cory understand that this may be the case. Please communicate as early as possible with Cory to discuss alternatives for your project. (Karen from BSVC suggests always going to the funder in this scenario and having suggestions as to alternative ways that the funding can be used. Go to the funder with some possible solutions rather than simply telling them the problem!).

### **Q We're thinking of applying jointly with another project and they want to apply directly too, can we both apply?**

A Yes, each will be considered on its own merits. Each project may or may not get funding.

### **Q Can my organisation make more than one application?**

A Yes, if you have different things to apply for then you can apply separately for each.

### **Q When can we start applying?**

A The application is available now (September 2021) and the closing date can be found here: <https://www.corygroup.co.uk/sustainability/community/fund-application/>

### **Q Can we apply for a music project?**

A Yes, although there is a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), Fiona is open to STEAM, where the A stands for Arts.

**Q Is Cory the same as Cory Environmental?**

A Yes.

**Q Can we apply for 3 years worth of funding?**

A In this scheme you can apply for funding to be used within one year. You can then apply again for further funding, if the project has been deemed successful via the evaluation process which takes place once the project has been completed.

However in addition to this scheme, Cory occasionally select groups to work with on a more ongoing basis. As such it may be worth considering what ongoing volunteering opportunities there are with Cory staff.

**Q Where to go to for evidence about the benefit of the Arts?**

A Karen suggested that this group check out the level of detail required for this particular application. For applications more generally, a couple of places that may be useful to look are the Arts Council and Youth Music. What evidence you will research will depend partly on what themes your work is covering, so things to put in a search engine might be, 'music and mental health' if your thrust is around mental health, or 'music and academic excellence' if you are looking to encourage excellence.

**Q Do you send in the draft Word document?**

A The application process has changed slightly in response to feedback. You can apply online or on the pdf. <https://www.corygroup.co.uk/sustainability/community/fund-application/>

**Q Has Cory sponsored any older people's projects in the past?**

A Fiona explained that age would certainly not be a barrier, and that Cory would be open to applications from older groups.

**Finance**

**Q You say that you would like groups you work with to commit to managing the funding and promoting the project, can we put some staff costs in the budget to cover this?**

A Yes, as long as these costs are proportionate to the project itself.

**Q Can we apply for support staff costs?**

A Yes, but this should not be the main thrust of your application.

**Q What happens if Cory likes my application, but other applications rate more highly?**

A If there is any money left you may be offered part funding, so it may be worth considering whether you can accept part funding. However, there is a limited pot of funding, so not all applications will be successful.

### **Corporate Social Responsibility.**

#### **Q What types of projects could Cory employees get involved with?**

A This is mentioned in the training. Fiona explained that these could be one off, eg Cory staff donating their old bikes or helping to critique your website. Ideally opportunities would be ongoing, eg Cory staff listening to children reading (NB consider your Safeguarding Policy).

Also, it may be that you don't just want to link into just Cory staff, you may be able to link to other groups or schools.

#### **Q What other Corporate Social Responsibility is Cory involved with?**

A Cory is also involved in other things like visiting schools and apprenticeships.

#### **Q What is the benefit to Cory?**

A Fiona was clear that Cory are involved because it is the right thing to do. Some businesses will help the community for PR reasons or to prove that they are ticking the Social Value box when tendering for work. Cory are keen not only to provide the grants, but to add value by offering other forms of support such as staff time.