



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk



INDIVIDUAL EMERGENCY RESILIENCE PROGRAMME FAQs

When is the deadline?

Closes 4pm Monday 17 August 2020.

How do I know I am eligible?

If you work in the creative sector in any capacity, then you will be eligible for support.

But while I work in the creative sector, I am not an 'artist'. Am I eligible?

Yes, you are eligible if you can show you have been working in the sector in any way. There is a very large number of people who work in the creative sector whose input into making the arts and creative industries possible is indispensable. You will find your contribution makes you eligible for support in this programme. Check out the list of sample roles in the Guidance Notes and you will see the very wide range of skills and jobs which are included.

Can I apply for training or mentoring or other personal or professional development costs?

Yes. Requests for development of all your skills are eligible.

Can I apply for support to sustain my practice and/or skills after loss of earnings due to COVID-19?

Yes. Requests for support based on the impact of COVID-19 on employment are eligible.

Can I apply for the cost of equipment or materials?

Yes. Requests for equipment such as cameras, perspex, storage, sound equipment, bookcases, filing cabinets, iPads will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

How long will it take after I apply to get a response?

We will do our best to make a decision by 28 September 2020.

What is the total budget for the scheme?

The total budget for the scheme is £1.1m.

This includes a contribution of £100k from Future Screens NI

If I apply for the creation of work does it have to relate to the Covid-19 pandemic?

No.

What should the CV/Career Statement be like?

If you have a CV, you can simply provide that. If you prefer, you can submit a Statement which will describe your working life in the creative sector, with (for example) some key dates, training received, length of service, organisations or groups you are linked with, key milestones reached, and so on. It should give a sense of what you have done in the sector.

Can I apply if I am a student?

Yes: please note:

Undergraduates and postgraduates are eligible to apply but they must prove that the funds which they are seeking are for work/costs which are not properly the concern or are not related to their academic study.

Undergraduates and postgraduates must submit evidence of this in the form of a letter on headed paper from their Head of Department.

In the case of post-graduate students, the letter must clearly state the title of the student's Masters/PhD thesis and include a declaration by the Head of Department. This declaration must state "The project for which funds are being sought does not form part of any academic work undertaken in relation to the above-titled Masters/PhD nor will it be assessed as part of any academic course".

Please note that the Arts Council may use its own judgement in determining this matter. Applicants undertaking a Masters or a PhD must also include a separate statement which provides information on how the project applied for differs from their Masters or PhD work.

What would a description of the benefit of the award on sustainability be like?

It will describe the benefit the award will bring to your practice. This may be as simple as helping you 'buy time' from non-arts related work; or helping you maintain a presence in the creative sector you wish to work in; or enabling you to develop new ideas, on your own or with others. It might also assist you in maintaining a focus on your work practice threatened by loss of opportunities due to COVID-19.

Can I apply to this scheme and also to Arts Council's other schemes as they open?

Yes, but not for the same application description or for the same costs.

Can I apply to this scheme if I am currently in receipt of an individual's award from the Arts Council, eg AEP?

Yes, but not for the same application description or for the same costs.

Is there an end date for the duration of the award?

The award completion date is end March 2021.

Can I apply to sustain my practice in a way that best meets my needs?

Yes. The first objective of the programme is to sustain artists and creative sector workers in their practice. This can take many forms.

Do I have to ‘make work’ as a condition of an award?

No. You can tell us why you need an award and what you wish to do during the period of the award. There is no requirement to do anything over and above what may sustain your practice as an artist or creative sector worker.

Can I collaborate with someone else?

Yes. Group proposals are eligible though an individual must be the lead applicant. One application should be submitted by the lead applicant for the complete collaborative/group project. You must provide CVs / Career Statements for all those involved in the project.

What type of evidence do I need on the impact of COVID-19?

A note from an employer, emails or correspondence detailing cancelled work, contracts which couldn't be fulfilled, a medical statement ...

What should the reference be like and who should it be from?

Simply, it will be a short statement verifying that you have been working in the sector in the way you describe. It can be from anyone - employer, tutor, convenor, promoter, booking agent, local arts officer, venue manager, senior colleague, medical practitioner etc - who can vouch for you in your role. If possible, it might also confirm loss of earnings. The reference should be signed unless there are extenuating circumstances which prevent this.

The referee does not need to be living in Northern Ireland, however must be familiar with and can vouch for your work.

If making an application for a group/collaborative project, one reference for the group/collaborative project will be sufficient, if the referee can vouch for the work of the group/collaborative project, otherwise individual references will be required.

Does Universal Credit count as support/funding?

We would ask that you provide us with information relating to Universal Credit if you have received this as a consequence of Covid-19.

Please be aware that if you are in receipt of means tested benefits and your application is successful, you are responsible for disclosing the award. You should seek advice from the government department or agency which handle your benefit before making an application as in certain circumstances, it may have implications for future benefit entitlement should there be a break in claim.

Arts Council will update these regularly throughout the duration of the submission period.