Please see some frequently asked questions lifted from the Sport England national guidance for Together Fund (TF).

**1. Please refer to the guiding list of questions to determine if a project you are proposing is eligible for the fund:**

1. Will this investment impact upon at least one of the four priority audiences?
2. Has the requirement arisen as a direct result of this community group or audience being adversely affected as a result of COVID-19?
3. What issues does the funding help to resolve in improving access to take part in sport and physical activity for the target audience?
4. Will this investment help a community group to recover and grow or continue to survive as a result of hardship? If hardship, please set out in the application how this investment will enable the community organisation to continue beyond the immediacy of this short-term investment.
5. Is this project directly funding the provision of physical activity or if not, how will it support the delivery of physical activity in the immediate future?
6. Will the funding go directly to a trusted community organisation rather than be directly delivered by a National Partner (funded through TF) or Active Partnership (Wesport)?

It is Sport England's expectation that when partners select their priority audience, they choose the audience that will be representative of at least 75% of their overall participants.

**2. Who can access funding?**

* Formally constituted club, association or trust
* Education
* Registered charity
* Local authority
* Social enterprise
* Company limited by shares
* Company limited by guarantee
* Registered CASC
* Community interest company
* Unregistered club or association

**3. Can we fund partners who have already accessed TIF previously, or other Sport England funding?**

Yes, so long as the purpose for the Together Fund funding does not duplicate the purpose of the other Sport England funding. This should be separate from or complimentary to any other funding previously secured from Sport England. Where appropriate, please highlight other Sport England funding as part of any proposal.

Sport England will interrogate applications from existing partners who have received funding through the previous rounds of TIF. It would be important that any further amounts of money committed to that organisation provide additionality to that which was initially funded.

**4. Can we fund on-costs, administration, coordination and management fees through Tackling Inequalities?**

Sport England want as much money as possible to reach the organisations and their audiences/participants/beneficiaries at this time. TF will only support funding for direct project costs and for an appropriate and proportionate share of an organisation’s overheads in delivering this project. Direct project costs are ones that clearly relate to a project i.e. coaching costs, volunteer expenses, a tablet to loan to self-isolating or shielding participants.

Sport England are happy to support salaries or contributions to salaries that are a directly involved in delivering activities to participants and primary audiences, however they will be looking for organisations to have considered how this salary/role/post will be sustained/maintained beyond TF delivery given it is a critical role in supporting participants to be physically active.

Overheads are costs that partly support a project such as rent or utility costs. The inclusion of on-costs and other organisation overheads which are not related to direct delivery will not be supported. Additional management and administration fees in addition to direct delivery costs will not be supported.

**5. What costs are ineligible for lottery funding and therefore cannot be included in Together Fund applications / applicants?**

There are certain items that are not eligible for lottery funding as follows:

1. Activities or costs which are already covered by other government funding including rates
2. Capital works
3. Activities promoting religious or political beliefs
4. Where there is personal benefit to an individual including incentives / prizes to encourage participation
5. Any private business or profit making organisations unless they are a Social Enterprise or Community Interest Company
6. Sole Traders\*/ Partnerships and freelancers
7. Loss of Sponsorship or loan repayments.
8. Replacement of equipment (its broken, tired, torn etc).
9. Contingency costs and VAT organisations are seeking to recover.
10. Retrospective costs

This list is not exhaustive; if you are unsure please do get in touch.

\*Sport England understand how important Sole Traders are to the sport and physical activity landscape and have been working to update guidance on supporting Sole Traders. Contact Wesport for a conversation regarding your project idea if you are a Sole Trader.

**6. What kinds of costs are eligible for inclusion in awards to community organisations?**

Eligible items of expenditure for this fund at this time directly related to your Together Fund project:

* 1. Staff costs
	2. Training costs
	3. Rent / Facility hire
	4. Utility costs
	5. IT costs
	6. Insurance

**7. Can the funding be used to offset membership fees at a club / organisation for people facing financial hardship as a result of covid-19 (priority audience focus of those on low incomes)?**

Providing lower or no cost activities for people on low incomes is an acceptable use of TF funding. It would be preferable to support the actual costs which any membership fee relates to e.g. coaching, equipment or facility hire fees, rather than the encompassing membership fee itself. In any event this funding should not be used to distribute funds to individuals to meet their costs.

**8. Can we fund one-off events through Together Fund?**

This fund will not support one-off events unless they have a clear purpose to engage or re-engage with an audience and can demonstrate that they are either at the beginning or end of a wider piece of activity for those involved.

**9. Can we use TF money to provide vouchers for participants? This cost is appropriate if reflected in the following scenarios:**

* The vouchers are low in value and will be used as a tool for engagement.
* The vouchers have no monetary value at all and if the user does not use the voucher, they would not be entitled to receive the value of the service in cash
* The vouchers would be redeemed for activity within a not for profit community organisation only. They should not be distributed for commercial organisations such as gyms where the longer-term involvement of the participant could result in a profit to the organisation.
* The person eligible for the voucher would be selected because they are one of Sport England’s key demographics.
* The value of any unused vouchers should be returned to the recipient organisation and where they cannot repurpose the amount in line with guidelines, should return to Wesport.

**10. How much funding can we apply for through Together Fund?**

The maximum amount of funding for a community body in any single phase of TF is £10,000.

However, Sport England expect that the vast majority of awards will continue to sit below £5,000 given the majority approved to date have been under this level with the average award being just £3,500. We want to reach as many individual organisations as possible.

**11. What does the term hardship mean in the application?**

The Together Fund is focussing on supporting organisations to **recover and grow** in this period whilst acknowledging in some instances there will still need to be some support for **immediate hardship**. This is focussed on the hardship an organisation faces to operate and serve its communities after the impact of the pandemic. Examples could be evidence of building capacity or other support as part of strengthening their sustainability as organisations in their community.

**12. Can the Together Fund support football focused projects?**

Where Active Partnerships and National Partners identify projects that are football focused, these can be funded through the Together Fund however there are a few factors that we would want you to consider before bringing these forwards:

* Please remember the core purpose of the fund is targeted at four priority audiences and aims to either a) support community groups working with these target audiences to get through and recover from the impact of COVID-19 or b) to reach our four audiences at this time to support them in remaining engaged and active.
* This fund is not designed to support ongoing/long term projects or the creation of new activity to new audiences but is a here and now emergency fund to support existing clubs and organisations to become more resilient and continue to support their participant base.
* Is TF the only funding opportunity available for this football focused project? Football clubs and voluntary organisations have and continue to receive significant levels of support through Sport England and other funders i.e. the Football Foundation. Sport England have also agreed to repurpose funding to the FA to help local County FA’s (CFA) reduce affiliation fees for clubs across the country, therefore, we would not want to fund this type of support via TF. Where not already aware, your clubs should be directed to ask their CFA about this.