



Wales Cultural Recovery Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the £53m funding package?

The Cultural Recovery Fund will help support and sustain the sector due to the ongoing challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund is intended to provide essential support to organisations in the sector, including music venues, heritage sites, museums, archives, libraries, events and their technical support suppliers, and independent cinemas who have all seen a dramatic loss of revenue due to the pandemic. The fund will help to support organisations to overcome the crisis. Whilst this is primarily a rescue and recovery package it presents a unique opportunity to deliver transformational change within the sector.

What are the key aims of the support available?

The policy has three main strands:

- Funding – to protect sustainable organisations and as many jobs in the culture sector as possible.
- 'Cultural Contract' – to use the funding to drive transformational change and support new ways of working.
- Roadmap to reopening – ensure support is aligned to safe reopening at the earliest opportunity with guidance to support the sector.

How much funding is provided in total?

The total funding package is £53m in 2020-21 comprising £50m revenue and £3m capital.

How will the funding be delivered?

The funding will be delivered through three main pathways:

- £18.5m Welsh Government funding (£17.5m revenue, £1m capital)
- £27.5m Arts Council of Wales funding (£25.5m revenue, £2m capital)
- £7m funding to support individual freelancers in these sectors delivered by the Local Authorities

Why have you not provided the £59m consequential in full?

Following the £1.57bn announcement by the UK Government in early July a £59m funding consequential has been received by the Welsh Government.

We are pleased to provide this £53m package to support the sector for the remainder of this financial year, 2020-21. Our funding support to the culture sector this year has gone beyond the consequential received. A £18m portfolio funding package was announced in early April to support the emergency response. Further support has also been provided across the sector through the Welsh Government's Economic Resilience Fund.

Which sectors are eligible to apply for the £18.5m Welsh Government funding?

The funding will be available for the following sectors:

- Creative – music venues who programme original music as the majority of their shows, recording and rehearsal studios, TV and Film post production, TV and Film VFX, independent cinemas, comedy venues, publishing organisations.
- Culture – local museums, libraries, archives.
- Events – events and their technical support suppliers.
- Heritage – heritage organisations and heritage sites.
- Cultural Service Fund for local government.

Can local authorities apply for funding?

Yes. As part of this Welsh Government funding package there is a Culture Service Fund for local government. This will be available for local authority-run or managed local museums, archives, heritage sites, libraries or cinemas. The Welsh Government will manage a separate application process simultaneously for local authorities.

What about arts organisations?

A total funding package of £27.5m is being provided by the Welsh Government to the Arts Council of Wales to support arts organisations operating in the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, literature, visual and applied arts, combined arts, digital art. The deadline for this funding closed on September 9 2020. More information is available [here](#).

Can national institutions, such as the National Museum or National Library, apply for funding?

Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies are not eligible to apply for this funding.

How do I apply?

Applications must be made via the Business Wales website:

Wales Cultural Recovery Fund - (Up to) 10k –
<https://applicationscrf10k.businesswales.gov.wales/>

Wales Cultural Recovery Fund - (Up to) 150k –
<https://applicationscrf150k.businesswales.gov.wales/>

How much can I apply for?

The triage system will indicate the appropriate route for you to follow. This will signpost you to either an up to £10k fund or one for applications up to £150k. In exceptional circumstances where your needs are greater than this, please contact us directly to discuss.

Is there capital funding available?

No. This is a revenue fund only. The Cultural Recovery Fund will support revenue costs only. Costs which you would capitalise in your accounts are not eligible for support however, you can request funding for the costs of small items of capital equipment including consumables (such as PPE or protective screens) and include small scale works of a revenue nature in your application for our consideration.

When can I apply?

The eligibility checker will open from 1 September and applications will be open from week commencing 14 September.

What is the deadline for applications?

Applications must be received by 5pm on 2 October 2020.

What period will the funding cover?

Funding is to cover the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

If successful, when will I receive the funding?

Decisions for applications of up to £10k will start soon after the close of deadline, followed by applications of up to £150k.

How will applications be appraised? Will the applications be treated on a first come first served basis?

No. Applications will not be treated on a first come first served basis, all applications will be assessed based on the information submitted within each application form.

I've already received funding from either the Welsh Government Economic Resilience Fund or Welsh Government's Cultural Resilience Fund and/or the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales Emergency Fund, can I still apply?

Yes. Our previous funding stream was designed to cover initial activity / expenses in the short term but you must declare any previous support when making your claim and not include any of the previously supported costs in this application.

Is there a requirement for match funding?

No, there is no match funding requirement for this fund. This is in recognition of the difficult situation the sector is in at this present time, so we do not expect applicants to provide additional match funding or other support.

Do I need to provide business accounts?

Yes. We will require you to provide accounts for the last 12 months, or previous financial year, to show that the organisation is financially viable. We will also ask you to say how the amount you have requested will be used. The amount asked for must be reasonable and justified. This could be in the form of a list of incurred eligible expenditure from the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 and a budget plan for 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021 or a cash flow projection.

What is the ‘Cultural Contract’?

The Cultural Contract is part of the Welsh Government’s Economic Contract as introduced in “Prosperity for All - Economic Action Plan”. It is designed to enable the Welsh Government to develop a new and strengthened relationship with organisations and to drive inclusive growth and responsible behaviours, including increasing the availability of fair work, green growth and climate resilience. It means that companies receiving support commit to a something for something approach that is built firmly on the principles of collaboration.

The Cultural Contract will ask that organisations supported through the Cultural Resilience Fund demonstrate a commitment to the principles of the Economic Contract. In particular, we will be seeking to evidence commitment to:

- Fair Work, including promotion of sectoral diversity, health (with a special emphasis on mental health) and workplace skills; and
- Progress in reducing carbon footprint and increasing clean growth and climate resilience.

Organisations will be asked to view the Economic Contract through a cultural and creative lens, and we will apply the principles in a proportionate and flexible way aligned to the unique circumstances and conditions in the cultural and creative industries.

In addition to the principles of the Economic Contract organisations will be asked to make Cultural Pledges in areas such as:

- Retained staff to support wider initiatives e.g. contact tracing to support Test, Trace, Protect
- Social prescribing
- Supporting health & arts initiatives.

How will the Cultural Contract work in practice?

For awards under £10k companies will be asked to confirm their commitment to the principles as part of the application process. Organisations will be asked to provide information on how they are operating in line with the principles of the Cultural Contract as part of post award checks.

For awards over £10k, organisations will be asked to complete a full Cultural Contract template and provide appropriate evidence within 12 months of award, to demonstrate how they are meeting their commitments.

Will this fund cover redundancy costs?

No. The fund is intended as a means for businesses / organisations to minimise / avoid redundancies.

What monitoring will be undertaken?

There will be a post completion monitoring exercise undertaken after the end of the year and you will be required to report on the activities undertaken with the funding received and how the funding has supported your organisation.

Can I apply to both the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government for funding?

No. The eligibility criteria has been determined in a way that should direct you as an applicant to the most appropriate pathway for funding. However, if you have been turned down for funding by the Arts Council of Wales based on eligibility and you believe you are eligible for the Welsh Government's fund then you may apply.

I run an amateur arts organisation. Can I apply?

No, amateur organisations will not be eligible. Applicants must be a businesses operating and employing in Wales and able to produce at least one year's full independently certified or audited financial statement but does not need to be VAT registered if total turnover is below the registration threshold.

We are a technical company that provides equipment or services to theatres, events and festivals, which fund should we apply to?

If your primary source of income is derived from staging, or supplying, events then you should apply under the events section of this scheme. If not you should choose the area most relevant to your main business activity. If you provide technical support services to a broader mixed range of arts activity, supported via Arts Council Wales but have been turned down for funding by them based on eligibility, and you believe you are eligible for the Welsh Government's fund, then you may apply.

I am a freelancer operating in the sector. How do I apply for funding?

There is a specific funding stream designed particularly for you. Please refer to Business Wales for further information regarding the separate freelancer fund.