

Expression of Interest form (EOI)

These are the questions from the Expression of Interest Form for the Booster Fund. These are provided so you know what questions will be asked. Please submit responses into the online form.

Declaration

Any information you enter on this website will not be given to anyone else other than the project partners – Locality, the Plunkett Foundation, Co-operative and Community Finance and Community Shares ICOF, as well as our funders Power to Change, Access Foundation and the Architectural Heritage Fund and our contracted assessment panel members, governed by our Booster Panel Terms of Reference. Beyond this, we will not share it unless we can't withhold it without breaking the law. We may use some of the data you give us for research purposes to help inform our research work but only as anonymised statistical information.

In order to continue with the application, you will need to agree to us holding the information you supply in our systems.

I agree

You can read our privacy policy which explains how data will be stored and used. You can find it via this [link](#).

Who is applying?

Please provide details of the person filling in this form. We need to be able to contact you in case there are any issues with the Expression of Interest form.

Salutation

Please select...

- Mr.
- Ms.
- Mrs.
- Dr.
- Prof.
- Sir
- Lord
- Mx

First name:

Last name:

Contact email address:

Contact phone number:

Your community business

Organisation details

Please use the official name and address of your organisation. If it is already registered, please use the exact name that is registered with the relevant regulatory body, for example the Financial Conduct Authority or Companies House.

Name of organisation

Please use the official name of your organisation. If it is already registered, please use the exact name that is registered with the relevant regulatory body, for example the Financial Conduct Authority or Companies House.

Organisation address line 1

Organisation address line 2

Organisation address line 3

Registered city/town

Postcode of organisation

Please provide the full postcode of your organisation (if already registered, this will be the postcode or your registered address). It must be in the correct format for example, M2 1BB, CB2 1QA or BS32 0BQ.

Organisation region

Please select...

- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- East of England
- London
- South East
- South West

Please select the region where your community business is based.

Further information

How is your organisation currently set up?

Please select...

- Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Trust
- Community Benefit Society
- Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee
- Community Interest Company Limited by Shares
- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Company Limited by Shares
- Limited Company
- Partnership
- Limited Partnership
- Limited Liability Partnership
- Co-operative Society
- Sole Trader
- Unincorporated Association
- Other
- Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
- Charitable Community Benefit Society (Industrial Provident Society)
- Charitable Unincorporated Association
- Community Benefit Society (Industrial Provident Society)

Are you able to convert to a Community Benefit Society, a Charitable Community Benefit Society or a Co-operative Society?

Please select...

- Yes
- No

To issue a community share offer, you will need to be incorporated as one of the following:

- Community benefit society
- Charitable community benefit society
- Co-operative society

The Booster fund can support you to convert to one of these legal structures if you are not already set up as one.

Please visit our [website](#) for support on how you can convert your existing business to a co-op

Please provide the URL of your organisation's website, if you have one

Facebook URL link to project

Twitter handle for project

Sector

What is the primary sector do you operate in?

Please select...

- Arts or Culture Centre or Activities
- Business or Workspace
- Business Support
- Community Cafe
- Community Pub
- Community Shop
- Community Space Hub or Centre
- Development
- Education and Education Support
- Employment Support or Training
- Energy
- Finance or Credit
- Food Catering or Production
- Grant-making Foundation
- Housing
- International

- Law and Advocacy
- Leisure Facility
- Health and Wellbeing
- Natural Environment
- Religion
- Research
- Social Care
- Sports Facility or Activities
- Technology
- Transport
- Umbrella Body
- Village Halls
- Waste Reduction Re-use or Recycling
- Other

What is the other sector do you operate in?

Please select...

- Arts or Culture Centre or Activities
- Business or Workspace
- Business Support
- Community Cafe
- Community Pub
- Community Shop
- Community Space Hub or Centre
- Development
- Education and Education Support
- Employment Support or Training
- Energy
- Finance or Credit
- Food Catering or Production
- Grant-making Foundation
- Housing
- International
- Law and Advocacy
- Leisure Facility
- Health and Wellbeing
- Natural Environment
- Religion
- Research
- Social Care
- Sports Facility or Activities
- Technology
- Transport

- Umbrella Body
- Village Halls
- Waste Reduction Re-use or Recycling
- Other
- Please select another business sector you currently work in.

What does your organisation do and who does it support?

Please tell us a little bit about your community business. We want to understand what lies at the heart of your community business and what impact it has or it will have. What are your main activities and who benefits most from them?

Your project and share offer

We need to get a rough sense of the amounts of money you need so we can make sure your potential involvement in the Booster Fund works alongside your wider plans.

What is the name of your project?

Please provide a name for the project you are raising money for.

What charitable purpose(s) will the project you are asking us to fund meet?

Please select...

- The advancement of arts, culture, heritage or science
- The advancement of citizenship or community development
- The advancement of education, training or retraining
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement, and the promotion of sustainable development
- The advancement of health or the saving of lives
- The prevention or relief of poverty
- The promotion of social inclusion
- The promotion of urban and rural regeneration
- The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage
- The relief on unemployment
- None of the above

We only fund community businesses that operate for a charitable purpose and reinvest their profits for the benefit of the community they serve, rather than for the private profit of individuals.

What is the purpose of the community share offer you are planning? What will the investment raised go towards?

Please tell us briefly about the project that you are raising money for. Why should we or your community want to invest in your project? What is the need and how will your project meet that need. What positive impacts will your project have on your community? Tell us enough to make us want to learn more in a full application.

What is the minimum amount you need to raise through your community share issue?

Please only add numbers - do not include symbols (e.g. £)

What is the maximum amount you hope to raise through your community share issue?

Please only add numbers - do not include symbols (e.g. £).

You will be asked to provide detailed costs if you invited to full application. We only need you to give us a rough sense of the scale of your funding targets at this stage. We understand they may change as your project progresses.

Are you interested in pre-grant support? If so please briefly tell us why

For applications from diverse communities, younger people (aged 35 and under) and those furthest from being ready we can offer some pre-grant support first. This will usually be up to four days advice from a community shares expert.

What type of funding do you need?

- Development grant
- Equity
- Loan finance
- Subscription underwriting

Click on the type of funding to find out more about what is available under each option. You can find out more about the difference between grant and equity in the [Booster Fund Guidance](#).

Grant funding

How much grant funding are you requesting from Co-operatives UK?

Please only add numbers - do not include symbols (e.g. £).

We expect to award development grants of between £2,000 and £10,000, averaging around £5,000. This grant funding is to help you get ready for investment and to finalise your community share offer. This may include further work on your business plan, community engagement work, governance structure and legal registration, the share offer document and the promotional campaign.

Equity funding

How much equity funding are you requesting?

Please only add numbers - do not include symbols (e.g. £).

The Booster Fund Panel will look at your investment needs, business case and how well you fit the investment priorities to determine how much we could invest. Investments could range from £10,000 to £100,000, although the typical investment is expected to be £20,000-50,000.

Through this equity investment, Co-operatives UK and/or Community Shares ICOF becomes an institutional investor in your community share offer. We invest on the same terms as all your other community investors, with the same voting rights and terms as laid out in your share offer document. The only difference is that as a larger investor, we will only request to withdraw our investment at a pro-rata rate, so that we do not take priority over other community investors.

Investment by either Co-operatives UK or Community Shares ICOF will not exceed 50% of the society's overall withdrawable share capital, so that neither becomes a majority shareholder in the society.

Loan finance

If you are interested in a loan, please tell us how much you might need

Please only add numbers - do not include symbols (e.g. £).

Loan Finance is also available through our partner Co-operative and Community Finance. If you are interested in this please give us an idea of how much you need and we will follow up with further details

Subscription underwriting

If you are interested in subscription underwriting, how much do you think you might need?

Please only add numbers - do not include symbols (e.g. £).

We can help members of your community to buy shares through instalments, rather than up front. For instance individuals pay £10 per month over 10 months to buy £100 of community shares. We call this subscription underwriting. The full amount is advanced to you upfront and you repay over a fixed period, typically 12 months. This is provided by our partner Co-operative and Community Finance, typically up to £25k and is fee free.

Stage of development

Which of the following statements best describes the stage of your community business?

Please select...

- Early stage – we're interested in finding out more, but haven't taken any steps towards the community share pathway
- We are preparing for our share offer but still have some way to go
- We are ready to launch our share offer
- We have already launched our share offer

Please select one.

- Early stage – We are interested in finding out more, but haven't taken any steps towards the community share pathway
- Preparing to launch - We are preparing for our share offer but still have some way to go
- Ready to launch - We are ready to launch our share offer
- Already launched - Our share offer is live

We need to get an idea of where you are on your community shares journey so that we can offer you the best level of support through your potential involvement in the Booster Fund

What community engagement and events have you already undertaken to inform your community and promote your community business and/or the need to raise funds?

Conducted community survey(s)	Held online information or online events
Held information or consultation events in person	Held a fund raising event(s)
Held site visit(s)	Run a leaflet campaign
Run a social media campaign	Canvassed the local community for support
Taken local people to visit other similar project(s)	Other

Please select all that apply.

This will give us a sense of how much you've reached out to and engaged with your community.

Have you obtained the Community Shares Standard Mark?

Please select...

- Yes
- No

The Community Shares Standard Mark is awarded to share offers that meet national standards of good practice. The Standard Mark ensures that community share offers are clear, honest and transparent. They also ensure that investors are presented with all the facts they need to make an informed decision and these facts are supported by annual accounts and/or the business plan.

If you do not have a Standard Mark, part of the grant funding we offer can be used to work with an accredited practitioner to apply for a Standard Mark as part of the process when preparing your community share offer.

For more information please go to the [guidance notes](#) on our website

Alignment with our priorities

Please provide up to three postcodes where the project you intend to fund through community shares is situated or will operate?

Postcode 1:

Postcode 2:

Postcode 3:

These may be different from your organisation's postcode.

Please provide all postcodes in full and in the correct format, for example, M2 1BB, CB2 1QA or BS32 0BQ.

We will match the postcodes given against the IMD (Multiple deprivation index), which classifies the relative deprivation of postcodes across the UK. This will be one of the criteria used to assess your application.

We are looking for projects from all over England that show high levels of community impact, innovation and engagement.

The Booster Fund is placing a high priority on supporting organisations working in the most disadvantaged areas (IMD 1-3).

Which of the following applies to the representation of people of minoritised ethnicities in your organisation?

Please select...

- Primarily led by minoritised ethnicities
- Represented by minoritised ethnicities
- Primarily for the benefit of minoritised ethnicities
- Some minoritised ethnicities representation or benefit
- No minoritised ethnicities representation or benefit

The Booster fund is keen to support organisations led by under represented groups, in particular minoritised ethnicities.

By minorities ethnicities we mean individuals and minority groups who have been minoritised in a UK context through the political and social discrimination and barriers that they face.

Please pick the statement that applies best to your organisation

- Primarily led by minoritised groups – at least half of our board and senior management team is made up of people of minoritised groups.

- Represented by minoritised groups – at least one member of our board and senior management teams is from a minoritised ethnicity, but people of minoritised ethnicities are not in the majority.
- Primarily for the benefit of minoritised ethnicities - not primarily led or represented by minoritised ethnicities but working primarily for the benefit of minoritised ethnicities.
- Some minoritised ethnicities representation or benefit - minoritised ethnicities are represented in our team but not in leadership roles, and there are some minority ethnicities among our beneficiaries
- No minoritised ethnicities representation or benefit – our board and senior management team does not have any representation from people of minoritised ethnicities and there are no minorities ethnicities among our beneficiaries.

To what extent is your community business led by younger people?

Please select...

- Youth led – primarily led by young people, at least half of our board and senior management team are younger people.
- Youth represented – primarily represented by young people, at least one member of our board and senior management teams is a younger person, but younger people are not in the majority.
- No youth represented, but working for benefit of youth – primarily for the benefit of youth , not led by young people, but largely working for their benefit.
- No youth representation or benefit – our board and senior management team does not have any representation from younger people.

The Booster Fund is keen to support organisations and projects led by and for young people (aged 35 and under)

Which of the following statements best describes your Board and senior leadership team?

We are led by a board and senior leadership team with lived experience of this characteristic (over 51% representation).

Disability	Ex-offenders
Long-term unemployed	Older people
People experiencing homelessness	People who are economically or educationally disadvantaged
Refugees and migrants	Women and girls
Young People	

Please select all that apply

Some of our board and senior leadership team has lived experience of this characteristic (below 51% but above 0%)

Disability	Ex-offenders
Long-term unemployed	Older people
People experiencing homelessness	People who are economically or educationally disadvantaged
Refugees and migrants	Women and girls
Young People	

Please select all that apply

Which of the following best describes the groups your work supports and benefits?

This group has a high representation in our work

Disability	Ex-offenders
Long-term unemployed	Older people
People experiencing homelessness	People who are economically or educationally disadvantaged
Refugees and migrants	Women and girls
Young People	

Please select all that apply

This group is moderately represented in our work

Disability	Ex-offenders
Long-term unemployed	Older people
People experiencing homelessness	People who are economically or educationally disadvantaged
Refugees and migrants	Women and girls
Young People	

Please select all that apply

This group is not well represented in our work but we have specific services aimed at supporting them or we are taking other active inclusive steps.

Disability	Ex-offenders
Long-term unemployed	Older people
People experiencing homelessness	People who are economically or educationally disadvantaged

Refugees and migrants	Women and girls
Young People	

Please select all that apply

How is your organisation taking action to address the climate and nature crises?

Electric vehicles (e.g. EV charging)	Innovative First/Last Mile Delivery (e.g. Micro Depots)
Active travel (e.g. Cycling, e-cycling, walking, cycle path networks, bicycle workshops)	Public transport (e.g. Buses, trains, underground, trams)
Community transport (shared transport) (e.g. Car sharing schemes, electric car sharing schemes, minibus)	Provision of Housing (e.g. New Builds)
Energy efficiency (homes) (e.g. Energy advice, Retrofitting, bulk-purchase, skills for energy efficiency)	Energy efficiency (community buildings) (e.g. Energy advice, Retrofitting, bulk-purchase, skills for energy efficiency)
Energy generation & Storage (e.g. Renewable energy (Hydro, biomass, solar, wind), switching campaigns, Batteries, Thermal storage)	Energy Advice and education (e.g. Providing education and advice to members of the community. Ranging from helping local businesses to engaging with energy consumers, to providing data services for members)
Energy Finance (e.g. Energy strategy for low carbon development, zero carbon funding, strategic investment)	Community food growing (e.g. Community orchards, allotments, community gardens)
Diet and Education (e.g. Eating habits & diet education)	Community food provision (e.g. Community food co-operatives)
Farming (community owned / supported) (e.g. Regenerative agriculture, soil management)	Food waste (e.g. Food security, behaviour change activities)
Repair and re-use (e.g. Repair cafes, re-use shops)	Retail & consumerism (e.g. Behaviour change, circular fashion)
Waste streams (e.g. Plastic waste, circular economy)	Land use and biodiversity conservation (e.g. Woodland Creation and Management, Forestry, tree planting, peat bogs, water management, Woodland Crafts, Re-wilding, , community ownership of natural land, ..)
Natural World (e.g. Connecting with the natural world)	Storms, Flooding and Sea Level Rise (e.g. Flood defences)

Temperature Extremes (e.g. Thermal resilience for community buildings)	Droughts (e.g. Water management programmes)
None of the above	

Please select all that apply

We recognise that community businesses already play a major role including through improving local green spaces, generating renewable energy and promoting community commitment to climate action. This information helps us understand what climate and nature related action your organisation is taking.

Alignment with our priorities

**Does the project you are raising funds for target any of the following activities?
Please select all that apply.**

Arts Centre, Facility or Activities	Business or Workspace
Care service or Facility (for example, Nursing Home)	Childcare or Nursery Provision
Community Centre Hub, Facility or Space	Community Pub
Community Shop	Community Café
Conservation of the Environment	Construction Activities
Craft, Industry and Production	Digital
Employment	Training, Business, or Education Support
Energy	Environment or Nature
Finance or Credit	Food Catering or Production (incl. Farming)
Health & Social Care	Housing
Income or Financial Inclusion	Leisure Facility (for example, cinema)
Library	Media or Publishing
Mental or Physical Health, Care or Wellbeing	Post Office
Sport Facility, Activities & Leisure	Transport
Visitor facilities or Tourism	Waste Reduction, Reuse or Recycling
Other	

Please select all that apply

Does your project involve a building of historic interest?

- Yes
- No

To be of special historic interest a building must illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural, or military history and/or have close historical associations with nationally important people. There should normally be some quality of interest in the physical fabric of the building itself to justify the statutory protection afforded by listing. See Historic England's [website](#) for details

How did you hear about the Booster Fund?

Please select...

- Booster Fund website
- Community shares practitioner
- Co-operative development body/adviser

- Power to Change newsletter
- Power to Change website
- Co-operatives UK mailing or e-bulletin
- Co-operatives UK website
- Event
- Word of mouth
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Access Foundation
- Co-operative and Community Finance
- Locality
- Plunkett Foundation
- Other (please specify)

Would you like to receive regular updates from Co-operatives UK about community shares?

- Yes
- No

That is the end of this form, if you would like to amend anything you can go back and edit your answers. If you are happy then press submit and we will review your form and be in touch

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Submit

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Contact Information

Funded by:



Delivered in partnership:

