



**YOUTH
MUSIC**

Energizer Fund



**Apply by:
05/04/24**



**Application
Guidance**



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LOTTERY FUNDED

Youth Music Energiser Fund Application Guidance

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Section one: Energiser overview

Overview

The Energiser Fund aims to celebrate and energise creative practice with 2-4-year-olds. Centring children's voices, views, and lived experience, the fund will explore co-design and participation in creative projects for early years.

The fund will give up to 10 organisations a three-year grant to deliver creative programmes with 2-4-year-olds. Organisations will come together to network and reflect throughout the three years, in a bespoke learning programme.

Beyond Music

The Energiser fund will support a range of creative activities and each programme should work across more than one art form. This is Youth Music's first fund investing in more than music. Research for Arts Council England's Let's Create Strategy indicated that children see creativity in broad terms, not limited to specific art forms. They have asked us to respond to that in delivering our National Lottery programme.

What will an Energiser Funded Partner get?

- A 3-year grant worth up to £120,000.
- The Energiser Learning Community – a carefully curated programme of online and in-person workshops, reflection sessions, and mentoring.
- Communications and advocacy strategy and support from Youth Music.

What does Youth Music want to achieve?

Ultimately, we want to bring about change in early years creativity. To generate excitement, greater understanding, and more equity for an age group that's often marginalised and underestimated.

We're particularly keen to explore co-design and participation with young children. Thinking about how we do it, what good looks like, what happens when we do it, and what we can learn from co-designing creative activities with 2-4-year-olds. The 10 organisations awarded a grant will be partnering with Youth Music to explore this.

When?

Funding will be for three years, from September 2024 until September 2027. Planning will take place from September 2024 to December 2024. Delivery will then begin in January 2025.

Application process

A two-stage application process. Stage one is an application form. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to an online interview with Youth Music.

Target organisations

- Constituted UK based organisations who have been set up for at least a year. See Section 4 for full criteria.
- Those experienced at working creatively with 2-4-year-olds who align with our Energiser principles and where co-design is core to their practice.
- The fund will bring together different organisations – with a diversity of organisation type and size, geographic spread, and creative practices.
- We anticipate that, whilst some music-making activities will be supported by the fund, we will be unable to prioritise music-only-focused projects.

An Energiser funded partner could be:

- A theatre company that specialises in work for early years.
- A maintained nursery school that centres creativity in their curriculum.
- A small CIC comprising freelancers delivering music and movement projects with 2-4-year-olds in a variety of community settings.
- A museum or library that programmes literature and art activities for 0-5s and their families.

This fund is unable to support activities taking place in reception classrooms.

What does an Energiser Fund programme look like?

At its heart, an Energiser Fund programme is about delivering creative activities for 2-4-year-olds that have been co-designed with children, delivered by organisations that want to explore and develop their practice. Partnership working is an essential component, including with Youth Music and the Energiser Fund Learning Community. There are examples of possible [Energiser Fund programmes](#) on our website.

Timeline

The [Grants Portal](#) opens for applications on **Friday 23 February 2024**. The deadline for applications is **Friday 05 April 2024 at 5pm**. Interviews will take place in May/June 2024. You'll find out if you have been invited through to interview by the end of April 2024.

Disabled access support

If you identify as Disabled and require additional support to make an application to Youth Music, you can [apply to our Access Fund](#). We offer funding of up to £900 for the application stage. You should apply for this money before you start your application.

Section two: Why we decided to create this fund.

We've chosen to focus on early years as a matter of **equity and inclusion**. The early years are too often marginalised in music and arts education, when it comes to both **policy and resource** allocation:

- They were excluded from the [National Plan for Music Education](#) in its first ten years. They are now included, but with no extra resource.
- Around only one quarter of the UK's major funders who prioritise children and young people, have explicit early years priorities. Dedicated early years funds are rare.
- Whilst early years has remained a funding priority for Youth Music, our last [early years research](#) was published 10 years ago. The Energiser Fund will form the basis of new research findings into early years.

Babies and toddlers have been affected by the seismic societal changes and upheaval of the last few years just as much as the rest of us but are rarely the focus of the conversation. Idealised constructions of early childhood mean that young children are often treated as innocent beings in need of care, or an incomplete person in need of education to prepare them for the next phase of life (starting school). When it comes to early years creative practice, it's therefore common to see:

- **Ageism** – not seeing the potential of children because they are so young.
 - How often are early years children included in youth voice strategy and action?
- **Out-dated approaches** that are disconnected from the realities of 21st century society.
 - Technology is an everyday part of children's lives, yet it's rarely a creative teaching aid.
 - The creative activities on offer to early years children don't always reflect the cultural diversity and range of art forms and genres that make up the modern creative world that young children engage with, at home and in their day to day lives.
- An **overriding focus on attainment** or 'school-ready' outcomes.
 - How are children's creative ambitions or wellbeing needs accounted for within this?

Why the focus on 2–4-year-olds?

A big, government focus on a child's first 1,000 days ([The Best Start for Life](#)), combined with an emphasis on preparation for the first year of school in reception class, means

that there is a gap in the policy and focus on 2-4-year-olds. To focus on this age group, the Energiser Fund is unable to fund work taking place in reception classes.

What do we mean by co-design?

We don't have a fixed definition of what co-design is or should look like. Co-design can happen in different ways – it can involve observation, talking, reflection, creative activities, movement, and connecting with children, adults, and families. Our [Youth Voice hub](#) can provide further ideas.

If you're applying to this fund, we want to know that co-design is at the heart of your creative practice and how are you ensuring that what you deliver is reflective of the wants and needs of the children and families you want to work with.

Why the focus on creativity and not just music?

In 24/25, our National Lottery grants programme will invest in more than music. This is at the request of Arts Council, who found as part of their [Let's Create research](#) that children see creativity in broad terms, not limited to specific art forms. This seems particularly pertinent in the early years.

What do we mean by creativity?

We like the [Durham Commission's](#) definition of creativity which describes it as "the capacity to imagine, conceive, express, or make something that was not there before". The Energiser Fund will support creativity across a wide range of art forms.

Section three: Our Energiser principles

These are the beliefs and principles that have guided the development of this fund. To apply to the Energiser Fund, you must align with them. You don't need to be an expert or experienced in all these areas. Our practice is still developing, and we would like to work with organisations who are open to learning with us. We don't expect you to have it all sorted, but we do expect and value your honesty about where you need to develop.

1. Learning and Developing

Youth Music's practice is constantly developing, and we're still learning – we want to partner with organisations who would like to go on this journey with us. That's why our first value is learning and developing. This means evaluating and reflecting on what we do, being open and honest about what is and isn't working.

2. Children's Rights

We recognise that children have rights, as members of society under the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#). Including the right to be heard, the right to play, and the right to freedom of expression.

3. Child Voice

We believe, as stated in the UNCRC, that "Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously." Children are skilled communicators and should be able to influence how the activities and organisations they are involved in are run. We acknowledge that the term 'voice' is limiting and doesn't recognise the many ways in which young children communicate. The Energiser Fund will help us to explore and develop our terminology, practice, and understanding in this area.

4. Young children are competent, creative individuals

We believe that children are competent and creative individuals. We believe that work with children should be child-led, not top-down. We are excited by and value children's creative work and want to learn from them.

5. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA)

We believe that work with young children should be **I**nclusive, **D**iverse, **E**quitable, and **A**ccessible.

6. Diverse Modern Childhoods

The creative activities on offer to early years children should reflect the cultural diversity and range of art forms that make up the modern creative world that young children engage with at home and in their day to day lives. We don't believe there is

'one way' to be creative or 'one way' for us to work creatively with children. We believe in embracing a diverse range of creative practices, art forms, genres, and cultures.

7. Creative ambitions and wellbeing

We believe that children's creative ambitions and wellbeing should be at the heart of creative practice. This should take priority over attainment or school-ready outcomes. We think that children should be valued for who they are now.

8. Partnership working

We believe that working in partnership with other organisations, adults, and children, enables Youth Music to be better, to learn, develop, and make a better creative world for young children.

You should be able to answer yes to all these questions to apply:

- Are you committed to learning and developing as an organisation?
- Do you recognise and value children's rights as outlined in the UNCRC?
- Do you believe that children are competent communicators and have a right to influence the world around them? Are you committed to developing your practice in this area?
- Do you view young children as competent and creative individuals?
- Are you committed to improving Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in your work and organisation?
- Are you committed to ensuring your work reflects diverse modern childhoods?
- Are children's wellbeing and creative ambitions the primary driver of your practice?
- Do you value partnership working?

Additionally, you must be committed to:

- **Engaging with evaluation and data collection.** This means evaluating your own work and supporting Youth Music's evaluation of the overall programme. This will involve working with a third-party learning partner.
- **Travelling, networking, and connecting.** This means proactively engaging with the learning community, which may involve travel and overnight stays.
- **Advocating and Communication:** We want to work with organisations who are happy to support us in shouting, celebrating, and campaigning. This could, for example, involve being interviewed by the Youth Music communications team, taking part in filming, celebrating the fund on social media and in the press, or sharing content with your networks. We will provide support with how to communicate and advocate about the fund and your work, but in return we expect our partners to be proactive and engaged.

Section four: Am I eligible?

Who can apply?

You must be able to answer yes to **all** the statements in this section before you make an application.

You are a constituted UK based organisation

- Sole traders and individuals can't apply to this fund.
- If you are a voluntary group not registered with Companies House or the Charity Commission, you must have a constitution and management committee.
- You must be legally constituted and providing activity for at least one year before you apply to this fund.

You have a set of recent accounts

We expect to see accounts that:

- Show your total income and expenditure for the last financial year (often called a profit and loss or a statement of financial activities); and
- A summary of your assets and liabilities at the end of the year (often called a balance sheet).
- These should be less than 18 months old.
- You'll need to upload these with your application.

You have the correct insurance in place and comply with all relevant statutory legislation

- Correct insurance includes employers' and public liability as a minimum. Copies of your insurance must be available on request.
- Statutory legislation includes things such as company and charity law, the Data Protection Act, and the Equality Act.

Safeguarding is an essential part of your culture and ways of working, and you meet our minimum safeguarding standards

- Safeguarding practices are well understood, always developing, and they inform your ethos and behaviours.
- You'll need to evidence that you meet our **minimum safeguarding standards**:
 - A safeguarding policy in the name of your organisation, updated in the last three years.
 - A person with overall responsibility for safeguarding (your designated safeguarding lead).
 - Their name and contact details are in your safeguarding policy.

- Safer recruitment practices, including DBS checks for those working with children and young people (at the highest level permitted, re-checked at least every three years).
- A procedure for reporting concerns, incidents, or allegations (including those against staff/volunteers) that says who to inform and how to contact them.
- Regular safeguarding training for staff and volunteers who work with children and young people (this can include in-house sessions) and induction into safeguarding for new starters.

If you don't have all these things in place, please contact us before you apply. Visit our [safeguarding hub](#) for further guidance and support.

You have a track record in delivering creative work with 2-4-yr-olds

- You must be experienced in delivering creative work with children within this age group. It's fine if your work has focussed on one age range (e.g. 2-3s or just 4-years-olds)
- You might have experience working with a particular art form, or you could have experience in multiple areas. Either is fine.

You have a track record in working with 2-4-yr-olds facing barriers

- We want to fund organisations who are experienced in working with those facing barriers.
- Barriers cause unequal access. Children and their families face barriers because of their gender, economic, or social background, disability status, for health or education reasons, because of where they live or for other reasons.

Co-design is central to your practice

- As stated in our values, we believe that children should be able to influence how the activities and organisations they are involved in are run.
- Therefore, we want to fund organisations who place children at the heart of their delivery.
- You should have experience of co-designing with 2-4-year-olds and want to develop your practice in this area.

You are experienced at working in partnership with other organisations

- Your experience of partnership working could be with arts organisations, local authorities, charities, early years settings, libraries, or other venues (this is not an exhaustive list).
- You don't need to have partnered with huge numbers of organisations in the past, but we do want to see that you have some understanding of what it means to collaborate with others.

Current funded partners

If you already have a grant from us:

- You must be up to date with all your grant requirements.
- You must have capacity to deliver on multiple grants at the same time.
- You should have a conversation with Youth Music before applying – please contact your Grants & Learning Officer in the first instance.
- We anticipate that whilst some music-making activities will be supported by the fund, we will be unable to prioritise music-only-focussed programmes.

Section five: Programme fit

Your programme will be informed by your location, your organisation, and most importantly the children you work with. But there are some things your programme must do:

At its heart, an Energiser Fund programme is about delivering creative activities for 2-4-year-olds that have been co-designed with children, delivered by organisations that want to explore and develop their co-design practice.

Timeline

- Grants will last three years, from September 2024 to September 2027. You'll find out if you've been successful in July 2024, we'll then work with you to make sure your plans align with the fund and the learning programme.
- Between September 2024 and January 2025, we expect you to be planning and setting up your programme. This might include initial co-design or consultation, staff recruitment, developing partnership agreements, finalising delivery plans, booking venues, and recruiting participants.
- Delivery with children will start in January 2025. Your year two (starting Sept 2025) and year three (starting Sept 2026) plans will be developed in response to your year one delivery.
- We are unable to offer any further flexibility with this programme timeline.

Your programme will engage 2-4-year-olds in England who face barriers because of who they are, where they live, or what they're going through

- You should try to remove these barriers in your programme design to make it accessible.
- There is some flexibility to accommodate older and younger children – to make the work accessible to families and settings that engage with mixed age groups – but your focus must be children aged between 2 and 4.
- We are unable to fund work that takes place in reception classes.

Your programme has been co-designed with children

- Involve children in the planning and ongoing development of your programme.
- This might include conversations or creative activities with children, observing carefully how they engage, leaving space for child-led and spontaneous activities, and reflecting on what this tells you about their preferences or needs. You could also consult with adults who know the children well, including parents and early years practitioners.
- Your planned activities and approach should respond to the wants, needs, and lives of the children (and families) you want to work with.

- Build the flexibility into your plans so that you can continue to respond to children as you work with them, considering how you'll adapt and shape delivery with them as you go.

You are working with other organisations to add value to your work

- You must be working in partnership with other organisations.
- These organisations should have a clear role to play in your programme, which is why we ask to see partnership letters/emails from your key partners.

Location of your delivery

- This is up to you! You might be working in a nursery or a children's centre, in libraries, community centres, museums, art galleries or parks. You may be working in one or multiple locations.

Activity with children

- At the core of your programme are regular activities with children. You might work with one core group, or activity might be spread across multiple groups or locations. We understand that children and families may join and leave at unexpected times, and in years two and three you might want to continue to work with the same children, or work with different groups.
- One-off activities or events are fine, and we know they have lots to offer children and families, but they shouldn't be the sole focus of your programme.
- You should have an overall plan for all three years of the programme. However, at this stage we only expect detailed plans for year one.

Activities will likely include a range of different art forms and not be limited on one area of creativity

- You'll be thinking about creativity in a broad and holistic way. You might work with specialist facilitators (e.g. musicians or dancers) or people from other sectors (e.g. play facilitators or speech and language therapists). You might have a particular art form (e.g. dance) that features more heavily in your activities. However, we would be unlikely to fund organisations that were only interested in exploring one art form or type of activity.
- We anticipate that, whilst some music-making activities will be supported by the fund, we will be unable to prioritise music-only-focussed programmes.

Evaluation and learning

- Youth Music will work with Energiser Fund partners to set and develop research questions for the overall fund, centred around co-design and participation with children. There are likely to be some data collection requirements as part of this, which will be negotiated between Youth Music, the Learning Partner and the Energiser funded partners.

- You should also know what you specifically want to learn from your own programme and how you'll reflect.
- You should also have built in time to reflect on how the programme is going and how to adapt your delivery.
- You should build in time to report back to Youth Music and to take part in the learning community (which is a compulsory part of the programme).
- You'll need to complete annual reports to Youth Music – updating on delivery progress and budget spend.

Section six: The Learning Community

The Learning Community is an integral part of the Energiser Fund.

It is designed to grow the collective expertise and voice of the Energiser Fund community. Centrally co-ordinated by Youth Music and its Learning Partner, it will bring all 10 organisations together with Youth Music to plan, reflect, network, and learn. It will act as a supportive network. Furthermore, it will help generate insights and learning that will be platformed to a wider audience.

If you have an Energiser Fund grant, then you'll be expected to engage in all four areas of the community and to budget for your attendance.

We anticipate two people from your programme team will attend each activity. These could be people from your organisation or a partner organisation.

Mentor

- Each funded partner will be allocated a mentor to undertake six to eight sessions per year (online or at your venue). We anticipate each session lasting approx. 90 minutes.

Online group reflection

- There will be monthly, online facilitated 90-minute sessions bringing all 10 funded partners together.
- These will include a mixture of structured reflection and action learning.

Face to face events

- Twice per year (in London or another central location), including an overnight stay and travel.
- We anticipate 1.5 days per event, with a mix of peer-to-peer learning and external expertise.

Training or skills development

- Up to two per year, delivered online.
- Topics will be determined by funded partners and could, for example, include areas such as IDEA, evaluation, or safeguarding.

The Learning Partner will work with Youth Music and the 10 funded partners to develop an annual research question. In the first year, this question is likely to centre around co-creation and participation. The learning partner will be responsible for producing an annual piece of research in response to the enquiry question.

Section seven: Budget planning

You can request up to £120,000 from Youth Music, for a programme that runs between September 2024 and September 2027.

- As delivery with children begins in January 2025, you might consider budgeting less for year one and more in years two and three, where delivery will run across the full academic year.

Please be aware that, if you are awarded a grant, we will confirm the exact details of the Learning Community with you and there will be time to adapt your budget.

The Youth Music Energiser grant can fund a mix of:

- **Delivery costs:** This is funding to deliver your programme.
- **Core costs:** This is funding to run your organisation.

Budget rules

- Make sure your budget covers all the activities in your programme.
- Make sure you budget for your participation in the Learning Community – factoring in staff time (including backfill for any setting staff), travel and accommodation.
- No more than 20% of the Youth Music grant can be spent on capital costs (items that have a use which extends beyond the grant or that could be sold on once the grant has been completed).
- All staff working on the programme must be paid at the [Real Living Wage](#) rate or above.
- You must commit to raising at least 20% match funding, with a minimum of 10% in cash match funding. Match funding is additional income to your Youth Music grant that allows your programme to happen. You can't use Arts Council England or National Lottery sources towards the minimum cash match.

Eligible costs

Here are some examples of eligible costs.

Delivery costs

- Salaries or freelance fees of staff working directly on the programme (e.g. Creative Practitioners, Early Years practitioners, Project Manager).
- Co-design activities.
- Marketing.
- Planning and project management.
- Monitoring, reflection, and evaluation.
- Staff induction and training.
- Capital costs such as musical instruments and computer equipment.

- Software.
- Room and venue hire.
- Food, travel, and other access related costs.
- You can include contingency costs of up to 10% of your Youth Music grant to cover unexpected events or activities.

Core costs

- Salaries (staff who aren't working directly on the programme).
- Organisational development (e.g. to develop your approach to safeguarding; inclusion, diversity, equity and access; and/or environmental responsibility).
- Communications.
- Operations (rent and utilities).
- Governance (audit, legal advice, preparation of annual accounts).
- Income generation.
- Training.
- IT costs.

Our [finance and fundraising hub](#) provides further information and support.

Ineligible costs

The following are ineligible:

- Activity taking place in reception classes.
- Profit-making programmes.
- Costs incurred before we made you a grant offer.
- The purchase of land or buildings.
- Reclaimable VAT.
- Reserves, loans, or interest payments.
- Activity that promotes party political or religious beliefs.
- Activities that are a statutory responsibility.
- Costs incurred in making your application (if you identify as Disabled you can [apply to our Access Fund](#) to help you write your application).

Match funding

We ask all funded partners to commit to bringing in match funding. You don't need to have this funding secured at the point of application. This is additional money, on top of your Youth Music grant, to support your project.

There are two types of match funding:

- **Cash match funding.** This is where there is money exchange involved. For example, a grant from another funder.
- **In-kind match funding.** This is non-cash support that you or your partners make towards the project. For example, free venue hire, or volunteer support.

For the Energiser Fund, you will need 20% total match funding or higher (at least 10% must be cash match funding). This means for every pound you request from Youth Music you must raise at least 10p match funding, of which at least 5p must be cash match funding.

Amount requested from Youth Music	Minimum total match funding required	Minimum cash match funding required
£120,000	£24,000	£12,000

Whilst Arts Council England or National Lottery sources can't be used towards the minimum match funding amount, it can be used as an additional contribution.

If you get a grant, we may ask for evidence of your cash match funding.

Section eight: Next steps

Have you read the guidance and think you're eligible? You should now:

1. Download and read the example [application form](#).
2. Plan your programme and gather the information you'll need to complete your online application form.
3. Double-check the [application deadline](#).
4. Create an account on the Youth Music [grants portal](#) and bookmark the URL.

There is an application checklist at the end of this document listing the steps you'll need to go through to submit your form.

What support is available?

You can ask the Youth Music team for advice or support. We're a friendly group of people and are here to help!

Email grants@youthmusic.org.uk with any questions or to schedule a call. The email will come through to a member of our Grants and Learning Team.

Access support to make an application

Youth Music is committed to offering a clear and accessible grant-making process that is open to everyone.

We use an online application system. This system does not currently meet Web Accessibility Guidelines. We know that the system may be inaccessible to some people. It is not optimised for use with accessible technologies such as screen readers.

If you face any difficulties making an application, please contact us to discuss how we can help. Please email us on grants@youthmusic.org.uk or call 020 7902 1060.

If you identify as Disabled and require additional support to make an application to Youth Music, you can apply to our [Access Fund](#).

Resources

There is a list of [Energiser Fund FAQs](#) and some [programme examples](#) on our website. Check out our [resource hub](#) for additional information and support.

Online surgeries and workshops

There will be an Energiser Fund online Q&A session on Monday 04 March 2024 at 5pm. [Sign up through Eventbrite](#).

Our [Exchanging Notes programme](#) has upcoming learning events that may help with your application.

Section nine: How we make decisions

At Youth Music, we believe that a greater diversity of views, skills, and lived experience leads to better decisions.

That's why we appoint a unique group of decision-makers for every funding round. Each group comprises internal and external experts with lived experience relevant to applicants, the organisations they're from, and the children they support. Applications are reviewed by multiple people, and decisions are always made collectively.

We assess all eligible applications. We then use our assessments and other data to help us make final decisions.

Assessment

The Energiser Fund has a two-stage application process. At each stage we will assess your Energiser proposal and your organisation.

- We will look at your Energiser proposal and assess if your programme is a good fit for the fund.
- We will review whether your organisation meets all the eligibility criteria, and how well you match the Energiser Fund's principles.
 - Remember, you don't have to have it all sorted, but we do expect and value your honesty about where you need to develop.

Following assessment of application forms, shortlisted applicants will be invited to an online interview with Youth Music – we will tell you in advance what you need to do to prepare for this.

Decision-making

When it comes to final decisions, assessment and interview is only one part of the picture. As we only have 10 grants to award, we won't be able to fund all the applications we receive, even though most of them will meet our criteria. We want to ensure we are bringing together a range of organisations from across the country and working across a range of creative areas. We also try to be equitable in our decision-making. This means targeting our investment towards the people or places that need it the most.

Some of the factors we will consider are:

- Children and families reached (e.g. barriers, ethnicity).
- Location.
- Type of programme (e.g. setting, creative approaches, art forms).
- Organisation type (e.g. turnover, leadership, set-up).
- Risk levels (e.g. financial, safeguarding).

Section ten: What happens next?

You'll find out if you've been invited through to interview by the end of April 2024, with interviews taking place May/June 2024. You'll then find out if you've been awarded a grant or not by 12 July 2024.

Unsuccessful applicants

If your application is unsuccessful, you will receive an email notification. We'll endeavour to outline the key reasons behind this decision and provide some support and guidance about potential next steps for your organisation.

Successful applicants

You'll be assigned a member of the Youth Music team to support you throughout your grant. We are friendly people who are looking forward to getting to know you.

We'll issue a funding agreement and an online form where we'll ask you to upload:

- your funding agreement (signed by two people in your organisation)
- evidence of bank details
- authorised signatories' mandate
- any other specific information we require from you

It takes up to 30 days from submitting these requirements to get your first payment.

Initial Planning

We may provide some feedback about your planned programme and budget, and we might need to work with you to shape these a little further. We'll let you know the details of the Learning Community, including dates and what you are expected to commit to – so you can build these properly into your plans. You'll have until January 2025 to finalise plans and get ready to start working with children and settings.

Induction

You'll receive a funded partner welcome pack and there will be an online induction session for all successful applicants. This will be the start of our Learning Community. These will also help you understand your responsibilities as a funded partner and the support and opportunities Youth Music will offer you.

Monitoring and reporting

You'll complete annual interim reports throughout your programme and a final report at the end of your programme. Templates for these will be available at the start of your grant – so you know exactly what data and information you need to prepare for your reports.

Making changes

You may need to make changes to your original plans. These should be approved by your Youth Music contact. You'll have their email and phone number so you can always contact them directly to discuss. We'll always try to approve the changes you request, so long as they meet the aims of the Energiser Fund.

Application checklist

Have you...	✓
Before you decide to apply	
Checked that your organisation aligns with all the Energiser Fund principles?	
Responded yes to all the statements in the 'Am I eligible?' section in the guidance?	
Want to deliver a programme that aligns with the 'Programme fit' section in the guidance?	
Read the Energiser Fund guidance in full?	
Applied to the Access Fund if you need support?	
Contacted Youth Music with any questions?	
Before starting your application	
Downloaded a copy of the application form questions?	
Created an account on the Youth Music Grants Portal?	
Checked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the date you were legally constituted • your charity/company number (if applicable) • your annual turnover 	
Got the information you need to answer all the questions on the application form – including a copy of your accounts and safeguarding policy (and constitution if you are a voluntary group not registered with the charity commission), and copies of letters/emails from your key partners	
Got the required diversity monitoring information about your leadership team?	
Before submitting your application	
Ensured your application form has been checked through by the appropriate people in your organisation, that they have completed the declaration and data protection section, and signed their name, position, and the date	
Checked the validation page on the Youth Music Grants Portal for errors?	
After you've submitted your application	
Received a confirmation email from Youth Music?	
Downloaded and saved a copy of your application form for your records?	

About Youth Music

[We are Youth Music](#). We're the UK's leading young people's music charity. And we believe that every baby, child, and young person should have the chance to make, learn, and earn in music and wider creativity.

Yet our research shows that many can't because of who they are, where they're from or what they're going through.

We leverage our insights, investment, and influence to build a national grassroots infrastructure that ensures the future of music and creativity is more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible.

Youth Music is a national charity funded thanks to the National Lottery via Arts Council England, players of People's Postcode Lottery and support from partners, fundraisers, and donors.

For more information, visit www.youthmusic.org.uk.

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