

EAS FUEL POVERTY CHALLENGE FUND 2022

GUIDANCE NOTES

Why a Fuel Poverty Challenge Fund?

There are currently various sources of help for some fuel poor and vulnerable households, including the Energy Company Obligation, Warm Home Discount Industry Initiatives, Energy Redress Scheme and the Scottish Government's Warmer Homes Scotland programme. However, in many instances these do not address the issues experienced by individuals with protected characteristics including disabilities, life limiting conditions, where English is not a first language or indeed where circumstances are simply challenging yet are commonly felt. These communities of common interest or experience often have very low levels of awareness of supports available, are resistant to seek support, have had poor experiences yet are vulnerable, are in fuel poverty, struggling with energy costs which is having a detrimental impact on health and wellbeing.

Where support is provided it can lack of funding for 'softer', more personalised, and tailored support. In addition, there are instances where the total amount of existing grant or support funding is insufficient for the measures required. Funding and support is often designed as 'one size fits all' which in turn doesn't lend itself well to testing specific interventions with harder to reach households. The Fuel Poverty Challenge Fund will, we believe, help to fill these and other such gaps in knowledge and provision. The learning from the Challenge Fund will identify how mainstream support mechanisms and programmes could be better aligned to meet the needs of those households that need help the most but are simply not receiving this at the current time.

Fuel Poverty Challenge Fund objectives & priorities

The objectives of the fund are to:

For beneficiaries:

- Reach people who are vulnerable to fuel poverty who have protected characteristics or are within recognisable clusters facing significant challenges and are less likely to access government/national programme support with bespoke and targeted support and interventions to improve their home environment and ability manage fuel costs.
- Help to addressing wider outcomes from improved energy efficiency/management such as improved health, wellbeing and financial resilience.

For grantees:

- Enable trusted local anchor or intermediary organisations, including smaller national organisations with specific community of interest focus, who are well placed to support harder to reach people who are fuel poor (or at risk of) and who may have less experience in working in fuel poverty
- Enable organisations to be better positioned to access larger or longer-term support for their ideas/approaches
- Enable organisations to test, try or introduce solutions & interventions to help their client groups

The main priority is simply tackling fuel poverty in a way that best suits an identified need and address specific challenges arising from the inequalities experienced by the households supported. Proposals for projects are expected to be tailored to need, projects that specifically address fuel poverty, projects that supply supports and enable actions that will make homes warmer or reduce fuel bills, projects that offer practical support to hard-to-reach households, projects that fill gaps that can't be met elsewhere. The fund is not prescriptive about what should be delivered, considering that those applying will be the most familiar with their own areas and know what will work for the households they support.

Who can apply?

Applications will only be accepted from Ordinary or Campaigning Members during membership year 2022/23. These members can have partners for the project if appropriate. Where an applicant organisation is not an ordinary member at the time of application, it will be eligible for and be expected to commence, at a minimum, Campaigning Membership during the delivery period. Details can be found on our [website](#).

Ordinary members are charitable bodies, community interest companies, NGO's and those community-based organisations who are non-profit making or distributing working in whole or in part with those affected by or likely to be affected by fuel poverty.

What can we fund?

As per the priorities noted above, projects must be tailored to circumstances, that address fuel poverty and vulnerability, supplying measures and taking actions that will make homes warmer or reduce fuel bills. The Fund can support projects that would enable practical energy efficiency measures to be installed where full grant funding is not available, or examples might include, facilitate training for staff to work with vulnerable households in need of support and advocacy. The Fund might enable provision of basic measures such as LED lighting, offering ongoing savings to fuel poor households, or might enable an organisation to appoint a front-line advisor with an energy awareness specialism. The Fund encourages and welcomes innovative or creative approaches that will in turn allow specific needs to be met. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list rather to simply give some examples. Projects must demonstrate additionality to the core work of the applicant organisation.

What can't we fund?

We can't fund projects based outside Scotland. We can't fund projects retrospectively i.e. expenditure that takes place before a grant is offered. Grant maximum is £20,000 including VAT, so we can't fund anything in excess of this (though applicants are welcome to use this funding to match with other sources where appropriate).

Funding available per project

Up to £20,000 including VAT is available. Applicants should note that there will be a 10% retention, payable on receipt of a satisfactory end-of-project report.

Obligations (successful applicants)

Projects must be completed by **31 December 2023**. Successful applicants must submit an interim report (numbers/statistics and progress towards targets/objectives) and an end-of-project report, the latter within one month of project end and detailing number and types of measure delivered, number of fuel poor and vulnerable households benefiting and appropriate narrative. End-of-project reports will also include a report on expenditure and on lessons learned. It is a condition of grant that successful applicants take part in/contribute to any publicity EAS or the William Grant Foundation wishes to generate regarding the Challenge Fund.

Application process

Applications must be made using the Application Form supplied. Applications must be submitted to FuelPovertyChallengeFund@eas.org.uk by **5.00pm on Friday 30 September 2022**.

All applications will be assessed and scored by a panel of judges. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **12 noon on Monday 24 October 2022**.