

Frequently Asked Questions

Please also check the information covered in our [three information events](#). This includes current knowledge on the opportunity, where the fund fits into the wider EU picture advice on creating a consortium and other sources of funds available. Also check the [BIG Lottery website](#).

What is the money for?

The fund is to help those ‘furthest from the workplace’ in Wiltshire and Swindon to find employment or improve their employability.

What is the bid process?

The most detailed information about the bid process and about the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) priorities is available from the [BIG Lottery website](#) where further details will be provided in early June. There will be a competitive two-stage bidding process, leading probably to just one successful bidder, this is why a consortium or partnership approach may be the best model.

The expected launch date for the program is early June, there is not much time, and how can we get ready?

Start now! Start talking to your colleagues internally about your roles as an organisation, and how you might partner with others. Maybe you might lead a bid or be a partner in another organisation’s bid. You may need clearance from your trustees if you are a charity.

Will the election affect the timescales or project?

The EU and LEP are likely to remain unchanged by the election, so the aims of the fund are unlikely to change, but it is possible that a new minister might wish to delay the launch in order to be sure of its content.

How much work will it be?

The time and work commitments will vary with your level of involvement, but will not be zero. It could be a risk to your organisation that you put in time and effort and are not successful.

Who will be the lead partners in any consortium?

This is still to be decided. Theoretically any organisation, local, national or even international could be a lead. Councils and companies are also eligible. It is expected that one or more potential lead organisations from within Swindon and Wiltshire will make their positions clear by May 15th.

How can I find out which organisations are interested in bidding, and who might be lead partners?

The results of a survey following the information events will be shared amongst those who attended and wished to share their information. A summary will also be available on the Community First website. This will show which organisations have confirmed that they are interested in leading a bid and who is interested in becoming a partner. It will also have some information about the organisations, where their skills, experience and capacity lie, and contact details.

It is then up to each organisation to approach the other/s as they wish. There will be networking opportunities at the workshop events on the 15th and 18th of May, but don’t wait until then!

How can I put my organisation forward to be a lead?

Complete the [survey](#) as soon as possible. This asks questions about what level of involvement you might be interested in.

Will the big corporates and national charities be able to bid for this money?

Yes, the fund is open to voluntary sector corporate, private business and national, possibly

international bidders. This is a good reason for the voluntary sector to strengthen links between its organisations, which should improve partnership working overall.

How many bids/leaders are likely to come forward?

We do not know at the moment how many will form from the voluntary sector, or from national charities/companies with local delivery. A commonly held view is that it would be best for there to be fewer rather than more bids.

What resources are there for partnership development phase 1 to 2?

For the successful bid at stage one going forward to stage two, there will be some development funding available to ensure that systems and understanding are in place to cope with the paperwork and reporting involved.

How can we bring Swindon and Wiltshire together?

Through the survey from the attendees of the first three events, and the two workshop events following, we will be ensuring that Wiltshire based and Swindon based organisations are networking. You are welcome to attend both workshop events to network and learn about an area you might not currently be active in.

How would a consortium work internally? What agreements are needed and how would the money work?

There are many ways a consortium might work. Some ideas can be found in *A summary of our partnership requirements* which can be downloaded from the [BIG Lottery website](#).

How can I make sure I don't lose out as a small partner organisation?

Consider working with organisations with smaller interests. Maybe contact possible lead organisations, to highlight your concerns and what you can offer.