

Children Survive and Thrive Rise and Shine funding programme Frequently asked questions

March 2019

We hope the following information is helpful.

The following information applies to the Rise and Shine funding programme that is open for applications until 22 March 2019 at 12 noon GMT.

To improve your chances of having a successful proposal, please carefully consider all the funding criteria.

This includes programmatic aspects related to the development of young children, and also other funding eligibility criteria e.g. your organisation's annual income. This can be found in the following places:

- Criteria for the Rise and Shine funding programme: <https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/current-opportunities/children-survive-and-thrive-rise-and-shine>
- Eligibility criteria: <https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/eligibility-criteria>
- Criteria described in the application process: <https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/application-process>

For future funding rounds under any of Comic Relief's themes, please consult the specific information on our [funding opportunities website page](#).

If you have any other questions, please send them to grantsinfo@comicrelief.com.

Frequently asked questions from applicants

Funding for existing work and/or new programming

My application would not be for a new project, but to sustain and build on work that we already have in place. Is this eligible for funding?

We do not restrict funding to new programming only, so yes: we would consider a proposal to sustain and build on work that you already have in place.

Programme focus

A number of questions were sent about specific approaches – for example water and sanitation projects, an initiative to register births in Africa to help children gain access to public services, etc. Below is the typical answer to these questions.

The Rise and Shine funding programme is prioritising integrated approaches to early childhood development. Activities that support specific aspects of young children's

development are important. However, the panel that will review applications will likely assess these more favourably if they are part of a wider programme that incorporates different elements of early childhood development.

We've also indicated that organisations with demonstrable experience in one or more of the key areas – for instance in health, or in education – may be able to extend this and integrate multiple elements of early childhood development.

However, we do not expect organisations to be able to achieve all this on their own.

- To meet the holistic needs of children it may be important to create strong linkages from communities to different services, and ensure integrated follow-up with families after they return home
- We also welcome applications from organisations working in partnership
- Some organisations might also consider a specific approach, such as implementing a missing key activity in local communities, e.g. community-based activities that address gaps in young children's holistic needs

On this last point, we would at least expect to see a clear explanation of how your approach fits into the wider environment i.e. how children benefiting from your work will also be supported to meet their early development needs, and/or how your organisation will collaborate with others to ensure this.

The call for proposals includes a link to the Nurturing Care Framework, which you can find [here](#). This is guidance about the development needs of young children in key areas: good health, nutrition, opportunities for early learning, responsive and supportive caregiving, safety and protection.

We are a specialist nursing team working with children with serious illness. Our service affects early childhood development, but this is not the core focus of our work. Would we be considered for Rise and Shine funding?

The Rise and Shine funding programme prioritises holistic approaches to meet the comprehensive needs of young children – health, nutrition, stimulation and early learning, responsive caregiving, safety and protection – to ensure their early development.

All proposals are reviewed on their own merits, but unfortunately the proposal review team is very unlikely to find that a nursing care programme, by itself, would be a good fit to our funding criteria for Rise and Shine.

We are a higher academic institution whose main goals involve early childhood development. Are we eligible to apply?

We will make investments in organisations that directly support families with young children.

In addition, complementary activities can be included if they contribute to strategic changes. Examples include influencing stakeholders, policy or guidelines at local or national level.

Capital costs

Would you consider funding the construction of an early learning centre in Kenya or Malawi?

We cannot support projects that include significant resources for capital costs. We can't support capital costs over 25% of the total funding request, and we generally expect to see amounts that are far lower than this.

In addition, it is important to understand the Rise and Shine funding programme's priorities in the [call for proposals](#), as well as our [Eligibility Criteria page](#) and other funding policies noted in the [Application Process page](#).

Location of the work, location of the organisation

We are registered in Kenya. We want to work here, and also with a partner in Malawi. Can we apply for a project where work will take place across Kenya and Malawi?

It is possible to apply in partnership for a project across both Kenya and Malawi.

Please note, we will still consider the location of the applicant organisation as follows:

We will always prioritise applications from organisations that are registered in the country where the work will take place. Applicants are welcome to include partners not registered in the country, but must be able to clearly demonstrate the added value of all partners included in the proposal.

If we are based in the UK, can we apply for funding for a project we will run in Tanzania?

The current Rise and Shine call is open for proposals to work in Kenya, Malawi and the UK. Unfortunately, in this funding round we will not consider proposals for work in Tanzania.

Do the funding limits apply to where the work will take place, or where the applicant organisation is registered?

It is the country where the work will take place that determines the maximum level of funding.

The criteria states "In the UK we will make investments of £150K and below, and in Kenya and Malawi we will make investments of £300K and below" – does this mean we can apply for up to £300K as we would be applying for project funding in Malawi, or are we limited to £150K as we are registered in the UK?

The maximum funding applies to the country where the work will take place i.e. Kenya or Malawi, not the location of the lead applicant organisation. Therefore, the application for work in Malawi is eligible for up to £300K funding.

Organisations that are linked to other organisations

We are registered in Malawi, but we are also part of an international organisation. Can we still apply for funding?

We accept applications from organisations that are officially linked to another organisation, but they have to be independent and self-governed. This means they need to have their own constitution, board and financial accounts. They would also need to meet Comic Relief's general eligibility requirements and the priorities for the Rise and Shine funding programme.

Minimum annual income

If the applicant is applying as a consortium of partners, does the minimum annual income threshold apply to the whole group of applicants, or must the lead applicant meet this threshold alone?

The applicant organisation must have a minimum annual income of £250,000 a year in the UK, or £75,000 in Kenya or Malawi (as shown in the most recent annual accounts submitted to the relevant authority).

A partner organisation can have a smaller income level, whether in Kenya, Malawi or the UK.

You should also note the maximum annual funding per year is also based on the applicant's income only. For further details, please see the next section of questions: Level of Funding.

Our organisation had less than the minimum annual income in the last annual accounts, but we already know that our income this year is more than the minimum. Can we still apply?

Yes, but please note the following. In this case your annual accounts, showing that you have reached the minimum income level, must be submitted to the relevant authority before the second stage application deadline. This will allow us to use your most recent annual accounts as per our policy.

In the Stage 1 application you will find the following question – *What was your organisation's income in your most recent full financial year?*

Please insert a good forecast of the organisation's income that you will be able to prove by the second stage application deadline. If you are selected to proceed to the second stage you will be asked to submit a full proposal, along with annual accounts that show how you have met this requirement.

For a programme based in Kenya, does a UK organisation that is part of the application need to have an income over £75K or £250K?

If you are registered in the UK and you are the applicant organisation, the annual income should be at least £250K regardless of whether the work will be in the UK or another country.

Can you make an exception to your annual income criteria? Why do you have income criteria?

We receive more applications than it is possible for us to support. Our eligibility criteria allow us to prioritise applications from organisations that are most likely to be successful in having their funding proposals approved. This saves time and effort for smaller applicants that are less likely to have their proposal approved.

We also want our funding to make a meaningful difference to organisations. This means that partners should have a foundation of work already in place, but also that they are not so big that our funding does not add value. We hope that our support for medium-size organisations in the countries where we work can accelerate their efforts and leave them stronger at the end of the funding period.

We have recently lowered the minimum income for non-UK organisations to reflect the reality on the ground. In many African countries there is a limited number of locally-registered organisations with £250K in annual income.

Level of funding

Can we apply for £150K per year, or is this to be distributed over 3-5 years?

For initiatives in the UK, the maximum funding for most investments will be up to £150K in total, not £150K per year. In some cases, we may approve investments at a higher level of £300K, as explained below.

The applicant can choose the duration from 3 to 5 years.

For initiatives in Kenya or Malawi we will make investments up to £300K for 3 to 5 years, and in some cases we may approve investments at a higher level of £750K.

How likely are we to be eligible for the higher grants?

We will consider the higher level of funding for proposals that include direct support to families, and also include further actions that contribute to strategic changes. Examples of strategic changes can include influencing stakeholders, policy or guidelines at local or national level. However, we do not expect to fund many grants at the higher amounts. We cannot predict how many applications we will receive, but we think that the higher level of funding may be quite competitive.

This also means applications for the higher amount will have to be very strong in both direct delivery, and in contributing to strategic changes locally or nationally.

If you believe you have a strong proposal we encourage you to apply for funding in either category. However, we have to leave the decision to each applicant regarding whether they should apply for the higher level of funding.

Can we include strategic changes as part of a proposal for the lower amount of funding, or do we have to apply for the higher level?

Either level of funding can include strategic changes, such as influencing stakeholders, policy or guidelines at local or national level.

If we applied for the higher level of funding and our proposal was strong, but not strong enough for that level of funding, might we be reconsidered for a lower level of funding?

Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that an application would be re-considered to be funded at the lower level. This is because of the number of applications we expect to get, and the difficulty of re-working a single proposal after the application deadline has passed.

If we applied for the higher level of funding, do we have to use the additional funds only for strategic changes?

No. We understand that different activities have different costs, so we will not expect an arbitrary division along these lines. Your budget will be considered on its merits i.e. it should be realistic, appropriate to the proposed work, and represent value for money given what you are proposing to do.

[Maximum funding per year](#)

You state that Comic Relief aims to fund no more the 40% of an organisation's future annual income. Does this include the funds that will be passed on to our partner organisations?

For the applicant organisation, the 40% requirement applies to the entire budget, including any funding distributed to partners.

Does this apply to the partner organisations as well, or just the applicant organisation?

This applies to the budget to be managed by each of the partners.

For example, if a partner organisation has an annual income of £6,000, the Comic Relief funding provided to them should not be more than £4,000 a year on average. In this case, their new forecast income would be £10,000, with Comic Relief providing an annual average of £4,000 or 40% of the total.

How do you calculate the 40% maximum funding?

The 40% limit will apply to the percentage of the organisation's total funding per year, after Comic Relief's investment is added to other income your organisation already receives. The simplest way of calculating the maximum annual funding request to Comic Relief is to multiply last year's income by two-thirds. This amount will represent 40% of the forecast annual income if your proposal is successful.

For example, an organisation in Kenya or Malawi with income of £75,000 as shown in its latest annual accounts can apply for average yearly funding of up to £50,000. Its forecast income will be £125,000 a year on average. (£50,000 is 40% of £125,000.) In this case, if the proposal is for three years of funding, the total request can be 3 x £50,000 or a maximum request of £150,000.

Does the 40% limit of annual funding apply to each year, or can it be an average?

This will apply to the average annual funding – so we will consider budgets that have higher amounts in some years, as long as the average annual funding is within the new 40% limit.

Core costs & activity costs

We understand that if an organisation's main purpose is to advance early childhood development, and it can demonstrate its impact, you may consider funding core costs only. Can you please define what such core costs would include? If our main purpose is to advance ECD, are we allowed to apply for unrestricted funding?

We will consider funding core costs only because we want to support organisations and not just projects. To be eligible, the organisation needs to advance early childhood development as its main purpose, and it must demonstrate its impact.

Core costs are usually considered to be the ongoing fixed costs of an organisation -- salaries, rent, utilities etc. We will also consider funding a combination of activity costs and core costs.

Please note, however, that funding for core costs is not the same as an unrestricted donation, which can simply be put in the bank as part of the organisation's reserves. We will expect you to propose how you will spend this funding. In other words, your application will have to include a budget for activity costs, for core costs to be covered during the three- to five-year funding period, or a combination of the two.

Number of partner organisations

How many organisations can be in a single application?

For the Rise and Shine funding programme, proposals can be made by single applicants, or by partnerships of two or three organisations that will receive funding (but only one organisation can act as grant holder)

Project start date

Can you please clarify what the latest start date for a project could be if a successful with an application in September 2019?

If a proposal is successful, the start date can be discussed with the funding manager. Before that, if your application is selected to proceed to a Stage Two application this should be discussed with the proposal assessor.

If you have relevant information at this point, it would also be helpful to include the reasons for a particular start date in your application.

If we are successful, when will the funding start?

The final decisions on funding will be made by the end of September 2019. If successful, organisations will then be expected to follow our funding start-up process and the organisation's own start-up activities.

Next funding opportunity

Will Rise & Shine open again later this year?

Unfortunately, we do not plan to re-open Rise & Shine again during 2019. Future funding opportunities will be announced on our website in due course.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to email grantsinfo@comicrelief.com.

Thank you for your interest, and good luck in your proposal development!

The Comic Relief Team