The Global Majority Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

# General:

**Q. What do you mean by Communities Experiencing Racial Inequality? What about other inequalities?**

When we talk about communities experiencing racial inequality, we refer to individuals and communities which have been historically defined as ‘Black, Asian and minority ethnic’ (BAME), a term widely used by government departments, public bodies, the media, charities (including Comic Relief) among others, when referring to ethnic minority groups. We now understand that the acronym ‘BAME’ is hugely problematic as it strips away individual identities and assumes, we all share the same experiences, challenges and barriers to representation.

This specific fund was launched to address the inequalities faced by different ethnic groups, resulting from persistent racial inequality in education, health, the workplace, the criminal justice system and more, which have been exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Comic Relief is committed to a Just World Free from Poverty and this work focuses on the most vulnerable and those experiencing inequalities across four strategic pillars:

* Gender Justice
* Global mental health matters
* Children Survive and Thrive
* Safe Place to Be

You can find out more about our social change strategy [HERE](https://assets.ctfassets.net/zsfivwzfgl3t/2RubEZMRMtmEJ4eEcWh9rr/6736fd96661278b41138962e27e78994/Social_Change_Strategy_Final_-_External.pdf).

**Q. How much can we ask for? If we ask for the maximum amount, will this be look upon unfavourably?**

We recommend that you apply for the level of funding based on the need within the communities you are working in and your ability to manage and distribute funds within the specified time frame. If you apply for the maximum amount, this would not be looked upon unfavourable. At Comic Relief, we usually state that you cannot request more than 40% of your organisation’s latest annual income. For this fund, we are applying our discretion to this rule, recognising that organisations that are led by communities experiencing racial inequality have historically been underfunded. Therefore, please do not be limited by this.

**Q. Can we apply to The Global Majority Fund to top up grants we are already making in the community?**

Yes absolutely – funds can be used to support/top up existing grant making you are undertaking. However, if you are successful, funding cannot be used retrospectively by organisations. It must be used for future work, not for work that has already been undertaken.

**Q. My organisation is in the process of becoming legally constituted, can we still apply?**

Comic Relief uses the last set of annual accounts submitted to the relevant authority as a basis for whether an organisation is eligible or not. So unfortunately, if you have no annual accounts you are ineligible to apply.

**Q. If I’m unsuccessful, will you provide me with feedback?**

Yes – absolutely. For this funding call, we are absolutely committed to providing unsuccessful applicants with personalised feedback on their application. We know this is an important process - particularly for organisations who have never received feedback before or are applying to Comic Relief for the first time.

**Q. Can Local Authorities apply to be either the lead applicant or as a partner?**

Unfortunately no. Comic Relief does not fund the delivery of services that are normally the responsibility of governments. You can find out more about this by visiting our eligibility criteria page [HERE](https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/eligibility-criteria/). This would also mean you would be unable to be officially considered as a partner under this funding call (a ‘partner’ in this context means an entity you would be working closely with to deliver the project and they would usually also be responsible for managing part of the budget).

**Q. When does the funding begin and when does it need to be spent by?**

Decisions will be made and communicated to all applicants by 29 January 2021. Funding should reach successful technical partners within 4 weeks of this date. Once the funds are received by intermediary technical partners, they will be responsible for launching their own funding call to distribute the funding. This usually takes anywhere between 1-3 months. Funds would need to reach community organisations by the beginning of May 2021 (exact date TBC) and spent in full by community organisations by 31 August 2021. Final reports to be received by Comic Relief one month after this date. All dates will be clearly communicated with successful applicants in contracts.

**Q. When you say ‘locally led’ – what do you mean please?**

When we talk about your organisation being ‘locally led’ - we mean it must be led and managed by the communities you serve. Being ‘locally led’ isn’t restricted to the geography of where the organisation is registered or operates.

**Q. Do you fund organisations concerned with research, policy, strategy, and innovation focuses?**

At Comic Relief, we absolutely do support these organisations. The focus of this funding call in onward grant making and if your organisation is well placed to undertake this, we would welcome an application from you. However the funding is to be used ultimately for Covid-19 emergency response activities and this does exclude research, policy and strategy activities.

**Q. As intermediaries, can we undertake programme delivery with these funds as well as distribute funds to other organisations?**

Unfortunately no. Grant making requires significant amount of resource and time and it can be challenging to deliver programmes as well as manage a cohort of grantees. Therefore, intermediary technical partners will need to onward distribute the entire fund.

# Eligibility:

**Q. My organisation works with communities experiencing racial inequality, but we are not majority led by representatives from these communities – can we still apply?**

Unfortunately, no. We understand that community representation at senior management level is only a partial indicator. It is an important indicator to demonstrate the understanding and commitment to having representation of these ethnic groups at senior level where they are leading on decisions, programming and how investments are made in their communities. Communities experiencing racial equality need to be included in these conversations and have a seat at the table when it comes to these senior level discussions to ensure meaningful change is achieved and sustained.

We recognise that there may be *exceptional* circumstances where this is not possible and if you have a compelling reason as to why you are not majority led by representatives from your communities across your senior staff and board, please do still apply and we will consider this on a case by case basis. We will still require evidence to understand how your organisation is driven by the best interests of the communities you work with and are included and involved in meaningful decision-making.

**Q. My organisation currently receives Comic Relief funding, can we still apply?**

Yes absolutely. If you meet the eligibility criteria for The Global Majority Fund, we would welcome an application from you.

**Q. My organisation only works with one ethnic group, can we still apply?**

Yes absolutely. We do not expect you to work with every ethnic group. We understand that organisations may work with only one or specific groups e.g. the Indian community, the Congolese community, East African communities or the Traveller community and this is fine. We also recognise you may also work thematically e.g. Indian survivors of gender-based violence or around mental health in the Brazilian community. This is fine too! We want you to apply to support the existing work taking place with communities, not the expansion of your work into new communities.

**Q. My organisation works with community groups working with minoritised European groups such as Roma, Traveller and Gypsy communities, can we still apply for funding?**

Yes, you would absolutely be eligible to apply to work with these ethnic groups.

**Q. My organisation works with community groups working with migrants, undocumented groups, people seeking asylum and refugees; can we still apply for funding?**

Yes – absolutely. We know these groups are particularly vulnerable and are actively encouraging organisations to apply to work with communities who are experiencing increased vulnerability and hardship during this difficult time.

**Q. What is the smallest area of distribution that you require in London?**

If you are applying to The Global Majority Fund to work in London, we would expect this to include work across Greater London, not just one or two boroughs.

**Q. Can you apply for distribution across multiple counties?**

Yes – absolutely. The minimum requirement is your organisation will need to have a presence and/or networks as a minimum, at a [county level](https://www.mapsofworld.com/united-kingdom/thematic-maps/uk-counties-map.html) to onward grant to.

**Q. Why do organisations have to have a presence and/or networks as a minimum, at a county level to onward grant to?**

This fund is being made available to organisations and communities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and we want to ensure assistance reaches as many people as possible. Whilst we know small local organisations are undertaking exceptional work within their communities, in order for us to have an equitable and wide geographical spread of funding, we need to partner with organisations that have a presence and/or is well-known by an established network of organisations at a minimum, at a county level. If you do not fulfil this criteria, unfortunately you would be unable to apply as an intermediary technical partner. We would however encourage you to apply to one of the intermediary technical partners who have secured funding from Comic Relief once this is announced next year.

# Finance:

**Q. My organisation has an income of less than £75,000, can we still apply?**

Unfortunately, no. We aim to fund only a portion of your organisation’s total income in any one year. At the point of your application, we will use your organisation’s most recent annual accounts submitted to the relevant authorities, and the average annual amount of funding that you have requested from us.

## **Q. What is the difference between annual and management accounts?**

By annual accounts, we mean your organisation’s accounts for the most recent financial year, that have been subject to an audit or reviewed by an independent examiner. By management accounts, we mean your latest income and expenditure report showing your organisation’s current financial position (as annual accounts can often be out of date at the point of submitting a proposal). They are usually tracked against your planned budget for the current financial year. The management accounts should not be more than 3 months out of date.

**Q. Why are management costs capped at 10%?**

Comic Relief is delivering this fund in partnership with the [National Emergencies Trust](https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/) and [The Clothworkers Foundation](https://www.clothworkersfoundation.org.uk/) to launch The Global Majority Fund. Each partner has their own conditions of funding and 10% was the agreed limit for management costs to ensure most of the funds reach organisations that need them most at this difficult time. We recognise that the trust cost of grant making does exceed 10% and in addition to the management costs, we have built in an ‘organisational development’ line, which allows organisations to apply for additional investment (up to 10% of the total value of the grant making fund) into their own systems and process to strengthen their organisation.

# Experience, Partnership Working & Programme Delivery:

**Q. My organisation has no previous experience of grant making, can we still apply?**

Due to the nature of the funding, we require organisations to move at pace to launch a funding call of their own and distribute funding on our behalf. This will require organisations to have prior experience and an understanding of systems and processes that need to be in place to successfully to this. So unfortunately, if you have no experience of grant making at all, you would be ineligible to apply.

**Q. We want to submit a partnership bid but the partner is not constituted, can we still apply?**

Comic Relief defines a ‘partner’ in this context as another entity you would be working closely with to deliver the project and they would usually also be responsible for managing part of the budget. If your partner is not constituted, they could still work in partnership with you but would be unable to manage the overall budget. Constituted organisations are legally required to have adequate financial systems in pace to manage finances whereas for organisations that are not constituted, there is no standardised system to follow. There are other ways to work together such as applying as the lead organisation and contracting the organisation you wish to partner with as a consultant to support the delivery of your work (this could be taken from the 10% management fee you will receive to manage the grant). Whilst they would not technically be defined as a ‘partner’ for Comic Relief, you would still be working in partnership to deliver the work.

**Q. We want to submit a partnership bid with a new partner we haven’t worked with before. Can we form a partnership bid?**

Unfortunately no. Due to the nature of the funding, which is designed to respond to the emergency needs resulting from Covid-19, intermediary technical partners will need to work at pace to deliver funding within their communities. Therefore, previous experience of working together will be instrumental to beginning this work quickly, understanding the strengths and experience each partner brings to the partnership and which areas each partner is best to lead on. This prior experience of working together will enable swift decision making and delivery of your programme.

**Q. Could an application be made including more than one partner?**

Yes – if you believe this would provide the best ingredients for success, absolutely. In the partnership section of the application form, we ask you to outline roles and responsibilities of each partner. We would reiterate that the maximum amount that can be applied for, towards management costs remains at 10% of the overall grant making fund, immaterial of the number of partners involves.

**Q. In a partnership bid, do all partners need to be BAME led?**

No – but we will seek to understand why they are the best organisation to partner with and how the communities they work with, lead the organisation – particularly around investments and decision making.

**Q. How much autonomy will intermediaries have in distributing funds? Will Comic Relief provide us with guidelines or conditions we need to fulfil when designing our funding call?**

Comic Relief believes in the principals of trust-based funding, which means trusting in the expertise and experience of intermediary technical partners to make investments on our behalf. Therefore, we are seeking organisations who have prior experience of grant making. We know that the ‘one size fits all’ approach doesn’t work when making grants – particularly when making grants to smaller community organisations. Therefore, we trust in your ability to design and develop a funding call that will speak to and be accessible to the communities you work with. Your lead contact at Comic Relief will be there to support you on this journey, acting as a critical friend, providing helpful feedback, proof reading, guidance…etc. But ultimately this is your funding call, you will know best what works and what doesn’t, and we trust your judgment. (But if you need a helping hand, we are only an email or phone call away).

**Q. Due to changes in Covid restrictions on a regular basis, will there be flexibility in how our funding can be used?**

Yes – absolutely. The funding available is classified as ‘emergency funding’ and therefore we absolutely recognise that the context is ever changing. If organisations you onward grant to, need to change how they will spend their grant, provided it is still within the principals of emergency Covid-19 response to communities experiencing racial inequality, this is fine. We encourage intermediaries to maintain regular communication with Comic Relief and to check in with us if they are unsure.

**Q. Is the grant paid to the intermediary technical partner in arrears or in advance?**

The funding will be split across tranches, which will be linked to key reporting deadlines. The initial tranche of funding will be anything from 70% - 85% of the total amount awarded to you, since you will be onward granting to other organisations. After this, funding is released to you at key reporting deadlines and we retain a small % of the fund at the end, which is paid upon receipt of your final report.

Last updated:

12 November 2020