Welcome to the Community Research Networks funding call launch
About

The Young Foundation is the UK’s home for community research and social innovation. As a not-for-profit, we bring communities, organisations and policymakers together to shape a fairer future, driving positive change and supporting collective action to improve people’s lives.
Why a fund for Community Research Networks?
Listening to what would make a difference

❖ Scoping Research with over sixty community representatives and leaders, including a community steering group.

❖ Key ask was: how can involvement between communities and R&I be more equitable and sustainable?

❖ Workshops discussed:
  ❖ what knowledge and ‘engagement’ means to different layers of community
  ❖ what involvement in knowledge creation or access to knowledge would be valuable
  ❖ what could a vision of an expanded system of knowledge creation look like.
What we found

❖ Involvement of communities has been limited to forms of ‘taking part’ – rather than deciding or owning the knowledge agenda about them.

❖ Common limitation of past approaches is the short-term nature of funding, the focus on funding ‘projects’ not ‘power’ for communities to do research themselves.

❖ Community groups are not typically able to hold and control research funding as the lead party which affects who has power over the research agenda.

❖ The focus of funding calls, application processes, short-term timescales, lack of support and lack of training all create barriers to more equitable community involvement.
What we found

❖ Knowledge is alive and well in communities, with local groups, partnerships and assets.

❖ But it is underfunded, under-recognised and undervalued by policymakers and the research ‘system’ – and disconnected from local research organisations.

❖ Different places and certain groups have different access to funding, resources, knowledge assets – and unequal opportunities for partnership with research organisations.

❖ Owning or having an equal role over the knowledge that affects you is a social justice issue, and...

❖ ...it can be transformative, empowering and build community strength.
How this fund responds

❖ Applicants can decide and define what type of knowledge is useful to their community’s need.

❖ No set theme – what you want to do and the scope is set by community need and you make the case.

❖ No prescriptive activities to work out what your network will focus on and do.

❖ Lead partner must be a community organisation (see eligible list)

❖ Research organisations or individual academics can be partners – but not lead.
How this fund responds

❖ Support throughout application process

❖ Funding to develop your partnership and idea (£25,000)

❖ Freedom to fail if it doesn’t work out – and freedom to try new and innovative partnerships

❖ Support package throughout your pilot phase to help grow your future plans, and

❖ Support to make your application for longer term funding
Practical Information about how to apply
When to apply

- Applications for phase one (Expression of Interest) open 25 July 2022
- Applications close 14 September 2022 (11 am)
- Successful applicants announced 17 October 2022
How to apply

- Identify whether having a knowledge asset or research network would be useful to the communities you work with.

- Identify potential partners you would like to explore building a research network with – you don’t have to have a formal partnership at the moment.

- Identify which community partner will lead – guidance on who is eligible from Innovate UK.

- Call us, email us and talk through your idea if you need to.

- Attend a further support session or webinar (dates to be announced).

- Stay in touch as you put together your application for the pilot phase.
Applications should be made through the Innovation Funding Service of Innovate UK.

More information: ukri.org/opportunity/community-research-networks/

For support:
- Email: hi@icstudies.org.uk
- Phone: 0800 211 8214 (toll free, Monday to Friday, 9.30am – 5pm)
Thank you!

youngfoundation.org/faqs/

ukri.org/opportunity/community-research-networks/