

Funding young people in policy-making call out

January 2022

We are now open for proposals from organisations that support young people to influence government policy and decision-making!

What we intend to fund

We want to fund projects, campaigns and organisations that help young people influence policy that affects them, and so redress power imbalances in policymaking. We hope to fund work that builds accessible and inclusive structures for ensuring young people's voices are heard and acted upon.

Examples of work that we might support through this programme include:

- Deliberative and/or creative processes for developing, informing and advocating for policy recommendations
- Peer research and follow-up advocacy
- Programmes that allow young people and policy-makers to work side-by-side
- Initiatives to support young people from under-represented backgrounds to themselves take up policy-making roles

We also want to learn about effective work already being done, and so are very keen to hear about promising and innovative models for youth engagement and leadership in policy-making that might look different to those listed above.

We accept that it is hard to guarantee policy impact and so are looking for evidence of potential. This might look like strong connections to relevant decision-makers, a track record of having influenced policy in the past, and/or being clear about the opportunity to influence (for example, upcoming government legislation, spending decisions, guidance, consultation outcomes, or policy papers). We will support work on any policy issue that directly affects the young people involved.

We recognise that work that meaningfully involves young people and responds to external context and changing opportunities to influence, will itself evolve and develop over time.

A learning partner will be appointed to work across all funded work, and partners will be expected to work as a cohort, sharing achievements, learning and successful models and approaches. Our learning partner will support organisations to reflect together and internally and share this knowledge across the youth and democracy sectors.

Eligibility and priorities

This funding is for...

- Charities and non-profit organisations in England that are supporting young people (aged 16-25) with experience of social injustice to be heard in policy-making processes

- Work targeting either national or local government policy-making, or the policies of large public bodies such as the police or NHS
- Organisations with the skills to deliver the work alone, or in partnership
- Either new or ongoing work

This funding is NOT for...

- Work whose primary objective is to educate young people on democratic processes and engagement, or driving up voter registration/turnout, as opposed to directly creating an impact on policy. We are a contributing funder to the Democracy Fund and so would encourage organisations particularly working on democratic engagement to [apply here](#).
- Any work that is not compliant with charity law e.g. party political in focus, or aiming to influence the outcomes of an election.

We are particularly looking to fund work that...

- Sets out a clear model and process enabling young people to develop and share their ideas
- Builds on past experience of involving young people in policy-making, and/or propose innovative ways of doing so
- Creates an environment for a wide range of young people to learn and work together
- Helps realise the rights of the young people experiencing social injustice, recognising intersectionality and how different issues might interact
- Demonstrates the ability to support those young people to participate meaningfully
- Faces and addresses the question of privilege. There is merit in supporting all young people to influence, but where we fund young people to influence who have experienced higher levels of privilege, we want to be sure we aren't perpetuating inequality
- Is progressive in values and willing to challenge the status quo

Q and A

Please note this page will be updated after our online Q and A webinar on Weds 2nd February which you can [sign up for here](#).

How much funding is available?

We have allocated a total budget of £350,000 for the first year of this funding programme, and so depending on proposals received expect to agree around 10 grants of between £30,000–£50,000 per year.

What are the timescales of this funding?

Organisations can request 1, 2 or 3 years of funding depending on the timescales of their influencing work.

Can I apply for unrestricted funding?

We expect that most grants will be restricted to specific programmes of work, unless the whole organisation's mission is aligned to the objectives of this funding programme, in which case we will consider unrestricted funding.

Can the work be part-funded by government or another funder?

Yes. We are particularly keen to see work part-funded by the policy-making bodies you are aiming to influence.

Can I apply if I am already receiving a grant from Blaggrave?

We are open to proposals from current Blaggrave partners as long as the proposal is substantively different to the work we are already funding, and/or existing funding is anticipated to end in 2022.

How to apply

If you need support with your application, please contact Philippa.kos@blagravetrust.org.

Key dates

- Open for proposals on Thurs 20th January 2022
- Online Q and A webinar at 2pm, Weds 2nd February
- Deadline for proposals midnight Fri 25th February
- Further questions and clarifying conversations: we will set up phone calls/video calls as necessary with shortlisted organisations on the 14th, 15th and 16th March
- Final decisions in early April
- All funding agreed by the end of April

[Click here to apply](#)

You can also apply to our online Q and A webinar [here](#).