

Early Years Disadvantage

VCS Grants

2018-20

Frequently Asked Questions

Date: 19 July 2018

Version 2

# Introduction

1. This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document should be read in conjunction with the Early Years Disadvantage VCS grants specifications and the accompanying application form.
2. We are not able to respond to individual enquiries. We are not able to respond to queries by phone. Please note that we are unable to respond to specific enquiries about the nature of your proposal/s as this is a competitive bidding process.
3. The enquiry email box closed at **5pm on Friday 13th July 2018**; this is the final revised version of the FAQ document. No further questions will be responded to.

# Eligibility

# Q1: What type of organisations can apply?

We welcome bids from individual organisations and from partnerships and consortia.

There must be a VCS lead and accountable body for the partnership or consortium. This must be clear in the application form. This body will be responsible and accountable to the Department for the management of grant monies.

Given the focus and nature of the Early Years Disadvantage VCS Grants 2018-20 , we require the sole bidding organisation or lead body (as applicable) to be a voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) organisation. The Cabinet Office defines these as:

“Non-governmental organisations that are value-driven and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives.”

Organisations which are not VCSE may be included within the membership of a partnership or consortium. However, they may not be the sole bidder or the lead bidder.

**Q2. Could you expand on the specification requirement that projects should be national and not local? Do they have to be confined to England only? And when is local too small to be eligible?**

The funding for this round is for national activity and services in England only. By national organisation, we mean organisations with proposals of national significance and with potential to be replicated/scaled up. This could include local or regional organisations that meet this definition.

**Q3. In a partnership, does the national organisation need to be the leading partner or could a local organisation be the leading partner?**

We will consider local or regional organisation (or organisations) as long as the lead partner is a VCS organisation and the overall bid is of national significance, within scope of the specification criteria and could be replicated and scalable.

**Q4: Can an organisation be part of a consortium bid as well as leading on another consortium bid?**

Yes.

**Q5: How do I apply?**

A full specification, application form and further guidance can be found on

<https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>.

**Q6: How do I know if I meet the criteria set out in the specification?**

In order to maintain the fairness and integrity of the process we are not able to offer additional tips or meetings to discuss the specification or any other aspects of the VCS Early Years grants procurement activity.  We recommend reviewing the eligibility checklist in both the invitation to bid specification document and application form instructions to bidders to check that you meet the relevant criteria.

Please note that we are **not** seeking to fund research related activity, pilots, small scale local innovation projects, services or activities designed to meet local delivery needs which we would expect to be commissioned locally.

**Q7. The specification says you are looking for originality and innovation in bids and also looking to build on national practice but you are not looking for the development of new resources. Could you clarify these possible contradictions?**

We are not seeking to fund duplication of resources that have already been created. We would, however, welcome bids which identify a clear gap, build on existing best practice, and use resources as a means of supporting VCSE delivery, but which do not simply see resources as sufficient in themselves. The bidder will need to provide evidence of a good value for money based rationale.

**Q8:** **How much grant funding is available under this grant process and what are the minimum and maximum amounts?**

The level of funding provided to each successful grant award will vary according to the scale, scope and quality of proposals. Whilst there is no minimum or upper limit for grant awards, we would not expect to award grants of less than £250,000 per annum (pro-rata for October 2018-March 2019 and April 2019-March 2020).

This is intended as a guide and, whilst the Department does not intend to depart from this, it reserves the right to do so at any time subject to quality and range of proposals received.

**Q9. What is the rationale for the £250k minimum limit for bids? Is this meant to exclude smaller organisations from taking part? Is there a maximum value on bids?**

This is a national VCS funding programme taking a strategic approach to support disadvantaged children and children with SEND in the early years.

We welcome bids from individual organisations (including smaller organisations) and from partnerships/consortia as long as they meet the specification of requirements and eligibility criteria. We intend to fund more than one bid in order to cover both priority themes.

To ensure equality of opportunity; if successful, we will only award one grant per organisation. The indicative £250k grant amount relates to individual grants – not organisations - and it is only a guide/indicative amount. Whilst the Department does not intend to depart from this, it reserves the right to do so at any time subject to quality and range of proposals received.

There is no maximum value on bids. We are making available up to a maximum of £6.5million (up to £2.8m in 2018-19 and £3.7m in 2019-20) early years grant funding to VCS organisations for an 18-month period (October 2018- March 2020) across two disadvantage-focused themes.

Q10: Does the indicative minimum grant amount of £250,000 cover organisations who bid for more than one grant i.e. two grants in different areas?

No. The indicative grant amount relates to individual grants – not organisations - and it is only an indicative amount. This is intended as a guide and, whilst the Department does not intend to depart from this, it reserves the right to do so at any time subject to quality and range of proposals received.

**Q11. How many grants can an organisation bid for? Can it lead in one bid and be a partner in another?**

The maximum number that any bidder can be awarded is one. But you can make up to two bids in total across the two disadvantage priorities:

### Closing the Disadvantage Gap at age 5

* Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (EYSEND)

If you make two applications, you must ensure they are under two separate priorities. This is to stop many similar bids impacting on our assessment timeframe.

You can be part of more than two bids if you are not the lead applicant on those bids (i.e. in a partnership/consortium).

**Q12**. **Whilst the maximum is clearly two applications per organisation, could both applications be under the same priority area? Likewise, are the potential winning bids limited to one or two per organisation?**

No. As above, if you make two applications as a lead bidder, you must ensure they are under two separate priorities. You may also be lead bidder in one bid and be a partner/consortia member in another bid. This is to enable us to manage expectations and enable us to conduct a robust assessment process over our assessment timeframe.

The maximum number that any bidder can be awarded is one.

Q13: I have a local project, can I apply?

We are not seeking to fund local activity or delivery unless it is of national significance. By national significance we mean projects that are replicable and scalable and address an issue or meet a need that is likely to be encountered in more than one locality and where national action is needed, or action is needed to ensure equality of opportunity or access for particular groups.

We are **not** seeking to fund research related activity, pilots, small scale local innovation projects, services or activities designed to meet local delivery needs which we would expect to be commissioned locally.

**Q14. Can a proposal contain a pilot scheme?**

Yes we would consider funding a pilot scheme, as long as the overall bid is within scope of the specification criteria, is of national significance and could be replicated and scaled up

**Q15:** **Do all the partners have to be from the voluntary and community sector?**

No. **The lead body or a sole organisation** does have to be from the voluntary, community or social enterprise sector (VCS). Partner organisations can be other organisations including private organisations. Applications must be made on a ‘not for profit’ basis.

**Q16. Please can you clarify “VCS lead” do you have to have applied to be this or is it enough to be a charity and meet your definition below?**

This grant round is open to all charities. However, it is for you to decide if your organisation meets the Cabinet Office definition of a VCS organisation:

“Non-governmental organisations that are value-driven and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives.”

Organisations which are not VCSE may be included within the membership of a partnership or consortium. However, they may not be the sole bidder or the lead bidder.

**Q17. Will VCS funding support individual children with additional needs?**

The Department for Education is committed to ensuring that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported with accessing early education.

This programme is not seeking to fund services or activities aimed at meeting local delivery needs and which we would expect to be commissioned locally.

You may, however, be eligible to receive funding from the Disability Access Fund, which is for all three and four year olds who are in receipt of child disability allowance and receive free early education. This is worth £615 per child per year. We would also encourage you to seek advice from your local authority, who are required to have a SEN Inclusion Fund for three and four year olds with SEN receiving the free childcare entitlement.  This is to support local authorities to work with early years providers to address the needs of individual children, and should be targeted at children with lower level or emerging SEN.

**Q18: Is a university eligible to apply for this funding as a lead or sole applicant?**

We consider universities to be non-governmental organisations and so they can bid as part of a partnership or consortium. To note: we are **not** seeking to fund research related activity, pilots, small scale local innovation projects, services or activities designed to meet local delivery needs which we would expect to be commissioned locally.

**Q19: Are local authorities and councils eligible to apply for this funding? Are local government departments eligible to apply for the funding?**

Local authorities and councils are local governmental organisations and so they cannot bid as sole or lead bidder, this also applies to individual or groups of departments within a local authority or a council. Local Authorities, councils, local government departments or local authority controlled entities can form part of a partnership or consortium bid led by another organisation which is eligible to bid.

**Q20. Can an organisation, which is 80% schools and college and 20% city council apply?**

State funded schools, including local authority maintained schools, parochial voluntary controlled primary schools, academies and free schools, are considered as governmental organisations. As a result they are not eligible to apply as sole or lead bidders for funding. They can apply as a partner or consortium member.

However, we cannot comment on individual bids.You will need to consider the eligibility of your individual organisation against the criteria. Any proposal will have to show that you are indeed a separate non-governmental organisation. We reserve the right to make further checks of applications to assure ourselves that they meet the eligibility requirements.

**Q21: Is this funding open to NHS Trusts?**

No. NHS Trusts are governmental organisations and so they cannot bid as sole or lead bidder. They can form part of a partnership or consortium bid led by another organisation which is eligible to bid.

**Q22: Can an eligible lead body sub-contract private sector providers to deliver some services?**

The whole application needs to be on a not-for-profit basis. For the purposes of the DfE VCS grant, subcontracting is permissible and does not in itself have to be on a not for profit basis. Within this context, it is for the applicant to determine the most effective and efficient means to meet its grant objectives, achieving value for money. It must enter into a formal agreement, or subcontract, with any subcontractor. The contract must include the obligations included in the Grant Agreement. The applicant remains responsible for the appropriate delivery of the grant regardless of any subcontracting arrangements.

**Q23. Our LA Children’s Services will become a separate company on xx date. This will be a Company Limited by Guarantee. Does this meet the criteria for a lead organisation?**

Applications must be made on a ‘not for profit’ basis. You will need to consider the eligibility of your individual organisation against the criteria. Any proposal will have to show that you are indeed a separate non-governmental organisation. You may wish to clarify your relationship with the local authority. We reserve the right to make further checks of applications to assure ourselves that they meet the eligibility requirements.

**Q24. I notice in the Essential eligibility criteria it states: “This means providing support to a set of agreed local authorities, where appropriate”. I can’t see where it states who the agreed local authorities are?**

We cannot provide this information at this point. This information will be available and agreed, where appropriate, in line with emerging intelligence from the early years social mobility local government peer review programme, which is due to begin delivery in the Autumn. Bidders must ensure that they are able to flexibly adapt their plans to work collaboratively with us in refining and targeting their projects after the start of the project.

Activities

Q25: What can be funded from a grant?

This grant can only be used for revenue funding (i.e. paying for staff costs, overhead and administrative costs, and project delivery costs). We will not fund any capital purchases. There are also some restrictions associated with expenditure on advertising, marketing and communications – guidance on what is permissible to fund is set out in the application notes.

Q26: Could you advise whether [X] type of project or proposal may be eligible for this funding?

We are not able to advise on specific projects or proposals due to the competitive nature of the application process. All applications will be assessed according to the criteria outlined in the application form and accompanying documents.

**Q27. What is the precise age range for the priorities? Is it up to age 5 or later - up to Key stage 1?**

This grant round is specifically for the early years. The work needs to target children from age 0 up to and including age 5.

**Q28. Would all parts of a project have to start in October? What if there were phased parts to the project?**

The funding for this work is available for 18 months (Oct’18-Mar’20); it is not mandatory for all aspects to begin then but we would expect some work to begin then. The high-level delivery plan gives you the opportunity to explain your plans over the 18 month funding period. As part of the assessment of your delivery plan we will look at whether you can progress activity quickly in order to maximise the 18 month funding period.

**Q29. The specification stipulates that the Department is only seeking “light-touch” evaluation in projects. Could you clarify the expectation, as some organisations are used to conducting robust evaluation of all of their projects?**

This grant round is not seeking to fund research projects. However, we do expect to fund activities that enable you to evidence outcomes and the potential impact of your approach. We will also fund light touch evaluation that enables you to consider how you will extract practical transferable learning from the project.

**Q30. Previous VCS grant programmes had a requirement that successful organisations would also work strategically on policy with DfE, such as in communicating the policy more widely to other stakeholders. Is this still the expectation and how does DfE want bidders to address this in their bids?**

Yes this is correct. This grant round is taking a strategic approach to aligning VCS grants to our wider work in supporting disadvantaged children and children with SEND in the early years.   We therefore expect all organisations to build in capacity to support early years overarching strategic aims over the funding period. We are happy for organisations to factor in management time within their bids to do that work.

**Q31. Can projects in this grant programme overlap with the work of the Education Endowment Fund (EEF) on the home learning environment (HLE)?**

We can’t comment on the detail of individual proposals. Details about the EEF’s HLE themed round, which is looking to robustly evaluate HLE interventions, can be found at <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/how-to-apply/themed-rounds/improving-the-home-learning-environment/>.   Organisations should consider whether the VCS grant round or the EEF HLE themed round is more suitable for their project.

**Q32. Is there additional guidance on expectations around the size and scale of acceptable projects?**

We are not able to advise on specific projects or proposals due to the competitive nature of the application process. All applications will be assessed according to the criteria outlined in the specification and application form. Please review the specification of requirements and eligibility checklist to check whether you meet the relevant criteria and understand our expectations before you go the time and expense of submitting an application.

**Q33. Is it possible to work with existing partners and develop areas of expertise further and work with new partners to develop similar expertise that we know works well?**

We cannot comment on individual proposals. Please review the specification of requirements and eligibility checklist to consider how to develop your bid.

**Q34. Please can we have a clearer understanding of the time, personnel commitment and format of the strategic support the DfE are looking for from VCS organisations? E.g. are you looking for a steering group or a single point of contact?**

We cannot comment on individual proposals. This grant round is taking a strategic approach to aligning VCS grants to our wider work in supporting disadvantaged children in the early years. Your costings should build in flexible capacity to support early years strategic activities as specified within contract finder suite of documents.

# Finance

**Q35: Can my organisation reclaim irrecoverable VAT?**   
  
Grant related activities are generally classified as outside the scope of VAT by HMRC, so organisations cannot generally either charge VAT on the services for which they are grant funded, or recover from HMRC the cost of any VAT they incur in the process of providing these services.  Any such VAT costs are thus ‘irrecoverable’ from HMRC – however, you will be able to recover these costs from DfE as part of your overall grant claim. You must clearly identify any irrecoverable VAT in your application form.

As a funding recipient, please be aware that it is your responsibility to ensure you are not inadvertently making a ‘VATable’ business supply of goods or services.  HMRC can rule that an organisation is providing a business supply, even when this supply is grant funded – it will depend on factors such as the kinds of goods or services being provided, the terms of the funding agreement, and the benefit received by the body making the grant funding payments.  If you are unsure whether you might be making a VATable business supply under the terms of the grant funding agreement, you will need to seek advice directly from HMRC.

**Q36:** **I don’t know if my organisation has received State Aid. Funding of what sort of activities counts as State Aid?**

State Aid refers to forms of financial support from a public body (or a publicly funded body) given to organisations engaged in economic activity on a selective basis, which has the potential to distort competition and affect trade between member states. More information on State Aid is available from the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk/state-aid).

**Q37: How will rules on State Aid affect my application?**

We consider it unlikely that the funding to be provided under this grant scheme would be considered State Aid. However, applicants should form their own view, taking advice if necessary, as to whether any funding they have received is State Aid. Furthermore, if your organisation has received State Aid from any public body in the previous three financial years you must let us know on the application form.

**Q38: What do Efficiency Controls mean for my application?**

Bidders should be aware that there are government restrictions on what grant funding can be used for in relation to all paid-for communications, marketing and consultancy activities. This means that controls apply to most communications activity including (but not limited to):

* Printing and publications;
* Events;
* Public relations activities;
* The creation and/ or use of digital services; and
* Engagement of consultants.

This means that funding for these areas may need to be cleared by the Department or in some cases by the Cabinet Office. The application form provides further information on these funding restrictions and further guidance can also be accessed at the GOV.UK at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cabinet-office-controls>

**Q39. Does government efficiency spending controls on marketing & advertising preclude all printing or only printing related to marketing? Will materials development costs for outreach work be covered in the government's efficiency spending controls on marketing and advertising? Whether the development is done in house only or an external agency?**

We cannot comment on individual proposals. As above, funding for some areas of spend may need to be cleared by the Department or Cabinet Office. Further information is in the application form guidance notes.

**Q40: Is it possible for a consortium partner who is not the lead to hold the grant?**

No, we expect the lead VCS consortium member to hold the grant and to be responsible to the DfE and to the other consortium members. The financial information requested at (Section Six question 6c) of the application form must be supplied in relation to the lead consortium member.

**Q41. Do all consortium members have to submit their annual accounts, or just the lead consortium?**

As the accountable body, the lead organisation bidding for VCS grants must be able to provide the financial information requested in the application form. As set out in the application form Section Six question 6c, where bidders are submitting on behalf of a consortium they will need to set out details of the consortium’s structure and governance arrangements. The Department reserves the right to request additional information of successful bidders in order to complete its due diligence checks.

**Q42. What should an organisation do if its proposed project has potential to find match-funding from other sources? Should it set that out in its bid?**

You can consider match-funding as one of your options in your bid. Please only show the amount you are requesting from DfE for the project in the budget table of the application form in Section 2 and explain any matched funding arrangements in the relevant questions.

**Q43**. **Will the IP for anything new that is produced as part of these grants be in the public domain?**

Our Grant Terms & Conditions, available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grant-funding-agreement-terms-and-conditions), which is also included on the advert on Contracts Finder, provides the detail on this.  You will retain all intellectual property (IP) already in existence which is owned, used, or controlled by you and your contractors, prior to the grant award or developed by you but outside of the DfE grant arrangements.

The Crown will retain copyright in all reports, materials and other documents produced in whole or in part using grant funding.

**Q44**. **I wonder if you could clarify what you require for Section 6c in terms of income from any DfE Grants (including agencies) – can you share more information about what agencies you would expect to see listed here?**

The DfE has 19 agencies, which are listed below. If you have received grant income from any of these organisations you should include this in your response to section Six, question 6c in the application form.

***DfE’s 19 agencies and public bodies:***

***Non-ministerial department***

* *Ofqual*
* *Ofsted*

***Executive agency***

* *Education and Skills Funding Agency*
* *Standards and Testing Agency*
* *Teaching Regulation Agency*

***Executive non-departmental public body***

* *Construction Industry Training Board*
* *Engineering Construction Industry Training Board*
* *Equality and Human Rights Commission*
* *Higher Education Funding Council for England*
* *Institute for Apprenticeships*
* *LocatED*
* *Office for Fair Access*
* *Office for Students*
* *Office of the Children's Commissioner*
* *Student Loans Company*

***Advisory non-departmental public body***

* *School Teachers' Review Body*
* *Social Mobility Commission*

***Other***

* *Independent Review Mechanism*
* *Office of the Schools Adjudicator*

**Q45.**

**i) For due diligence purposes is there a minimum turnover for lead organisations or a minimum ratio of amount bid for to turnover? For example, in the TLIF bids you specified that a bid must be for no more than 50% of turnover?**

**ii) In light of i. above, will you consider bids for less than £250,000 per annum for smaller charities where these meet the programme's criteria?**

**iii) Where an organisation has an independent inspection not an audit, how should the question about audited accounts be answered?**

i) No we do not have a minimum turnover level for this grant round. A large degree of dependency on public sector income will not automatically rule you out. However, we will be assessing evidence of your financial viability as part of the application process along with looking at your governance arrangements and sustainability plans. The Department reserves the right to request additional financial assurance information of successful bidders in order to complete its due diligence checks.

ii) The indicative £250k grant amount relates to individual grants – not organisations and it is only an indicative amount. This is intended as a guide and, whilst the Department does not intend to depart from this, it reserves the right to do so at any time subject to quality and range of proposals received.

iii) The application form checklist on page 6 provides guidance on financial documentation. We reserve the right to request further information and make further checks of your organisation to assure ourselves.

# Completing the Application Form

**Q46: How can I obtain a copy of the application form?**

The application form can be downloaded from the Contracts Finder website <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>

**Q47: Given the limited characters allowed (approximate word limits) can you please confirm whether it is permitted to cross reference between sections to save repetition?**

Yes. You may cross reference between questions.

**Q48: Where there is a restrictive limit to the number of characters (approximate word limits) for parts of the application form, can I use acronyms and write it out in full at the end?**

Acronyms are fine so long as you explain what the acronym is the first time you use it.

**Q49: Can we include diagrams and charts in the application form?**

No. Apart from your additional financial information process, we will not accept additional diagrams or charts, at this stage of the bidding process. If your application is successful, there will be an opportunity for you to provide additional information (including diagrams or charts) during the grant negotiation phase. [Note- that we cannot accept emails larger than 24MB. If you have large attachments, please zip or compress your files before sending].

**Q50: Would you consider a cross-early years priority/ies bid?**

You need to submit your application under one of the two early years disadvantage priorities. But you are can indicate in the narrative of your application form if your proposal also contributes across the other priority areas specified in this opportunity.

**Q51: Do proposals have to meet all the areas you describe in the assessment and scoring section in the application form? For example, can the proposal focus on just one of the areas described in the assessment and scoring section under the questions?**

Yes. In order to maximise your overall score, you should try to cover all the areas listed in the ‘assessment and scoring’ sections.

**Q52: Do I have to send paper copies?**

No. We will not accept paper hard copies of your completed application form. This is an electronic application process. All documents are available on line at the Contracts Finder website <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder> and you can download from there.

Your proposal must be sent to the relevant application DfE mailbox   
[EarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk) by **noon on Friday 27th July 2018.**

**Q53:  How do I email my completed application form?**

Send your application form by opening a new email message; insert your organisations name clearly specifying the early years priority theme you are bidding under in the subject heading, attach your final application form and additional financial information and send it to [EarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk). You will know when your email has reached the DfE because you will receive an automatic email from the relevant DfE application mailbox.

**Q54. What if I don’t receive an automatic email when I submit my application? Do I need to resubmit?**

**Please do not send in duplicate copies of your application as this delays the assessment process.**  If you don’t receive an automatic email from the relevant DfE application mailbox confirming we have received your application please email your query to [EnquiriesEarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk](mailto:EnquiriesEarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk) stating the time you submitted your application and someone from our team will get in touch with you.

**Q55: What happens if my attachments are over 24MB?**

You will need to ensure that all attachments do not exceed the maximum limit of 24MB as we cannot accept emails that are larger than that. If the total size is larger than 24MB please zip (compress) the files. Alternatively divide the attachments between a number of emails, clearly specifying your organisation name in the subject line and body of each email.

**Q56: How do I submit my financial documents?**

You will need to attach all your documents to the email (along with your completed application form).

**Q57: How do we signify areas within our bid that are commercially sensitive?**

Bidders should note that the department is committed to open government and to meeting their responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Accordingly, all information submitted to the Department may need to be disclosed in response to a request under the Act.

However, if you consider that any of the information included in your proposal is commercially sensitive and this information is pertinent to your application, please send a separate email to the relevant application mailbox with the subject line ‘commercially sensitive’ **by close Friday 27th July** setting out (in broad terms) what harm may result from disclosure if a request is received, and the time period applicable to that sensitivity. You should be aware that, even where you have indicated that information is commercially sensitive, we may still be required to disclose it under the Act if a request is received. Please also note that the receipt of any material marked ‘confidential’ or equivalent by the department should not be taken to mean that we accept any duty of confidence by virtue of that marking. If a request is received, we may also be required to disclose details of unsuccessful proposals.

# Assessment Process

**Q58: Who will assess the applications?**

Applications will be assessed by DfE officials from the relevant policy and programme with support from finance and commercial areas across the Department. Officials from across the department may also be involved where we consider this relevant and appropriate.

**Q59: What are the assessors looking for?**

The application form sets out the criteria and the corresponding weightings that the DfE will be using when they assess bids. The early years disadvantage VCS Grants 2018-20 invitation to bid includes the specification of requirements which describes the two early years disadvantage priorities and desired outcomes we are seeking through this funding opportunity.

**Q60: When will announcements about grant awards be made?**

We aim to announce the grant awards in early September 2018. Please note that this is provisional and may be subject to change, but will be adhered to by the Department as far as reasonably possible. The successful bidders must be prepared to start delivering activities in 1 October 2018.

**Q61: Feedback**

**Following the evaluation of all bids will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback on their proposals?**

Applicants will be able to request feedback once notified of the outcome of their application. Feedback will be available to unsuccessful bidders following the award of grants and once successful grant agreements are in place after October 2018.

# Other

**Q62. When will we know the outcomes of the TLIF funding? If organisations have bid for TLIF funding and are awaiting the outcome can they make a similar type of bid for this VCS grant funding? And could an organisation re-purpose its TLIF bid for this VCS grant programme?**

If you feel that you have a suitable proposal(s) for the EY Disadvantage VCS Grant Programme you should still submit it even if it is the same as the one submitted to the TLIF Round 2 Programme. Organisations should state in Section 6; Q6c in the application form that they have put in a bid elsewhere. If you, subsequently, hear that your TLIF Programme bid has been successful you can choose to withdraw your VCS application. However, you should note we will not fund duplicate bids funded elsewhere in the department. On TLIF specifically on 14 June, DfE informed all those invited to tender that there would be a delay in notifying bidders whether they would be invited to contract for TLIF Round 2. Unfortunately we are not yet in a position to provide an update on this. We recognise that this may be frustrating and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. The TLIF team will be in touch as soon as possible with an update on the procurement result.

**Q63. How can DfE help small organisations to partner up with others to make consortium bids? Is there an online group?**

There is no online group. Unfortunately we are not able to run a brokerage service for organisations who might be considering applying under this grant round but we will share the names of organisations who attended the VCS briefing event on (where organisations that have indicated that they are happy for us to do this).

**Q64. Please can you tell me who the VCS holders are?  Also are there any published details of what you are actually looking for in bids beyond the titles?**

The table below shows the list of VCS grants awarded in the last round:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EY VCS Grants 2017-18** | **Organisation** |
| **Priority 1**  **Supporting Disadvantaged Children** | Family and Childcare Trust |
| Home-Start UK |
| Institute of Wellbeing |
| Literacy Consortia (National Literacy Trust National Children’s Bureau & Peeple) |
| **Priority 2**  **EYSEND** | Contact a Family |
| National Childrens Bureau |
| NASEN |
| National Portage Association |
| Pen Green |
| **Priority3**  **Workforce Quality** | Pre-school Learning Alliance |
| **Priority 4 - Implementation Support** | National Day Nurseries |
| Action for Children |
| PACEY |

**Q65. Who is going to be doing the Foundation Years website after the current EY VCS grants end?**

We are planning to compete for the future management of the website, along with wider support on comms and stakeholder engagement, after the current grant expires. This opportunity will be published on Contracts Finder shortly.

**Q66. For any programmes that delivers via settings/schools, would the responsibility for finding partner settings/schools be with the applicant/s and how much thinking about where exactly delivery would take place needs to be in the application or can it be mostly be confirmed if successful?**

We can’t comment on the detail of individual proposals. It will be for the bidder to decide when and how to identify partner/s settings and schools.

**Final word on submitting your application**

Final application forms must be sent to:

[EarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk) specifying your organisation name and priority theme in the subject line **by noon on Friday 27th July**.

**Please do not submit duplicate applications as this delays the assessment process.**