

Date	Question
03-Jun-26	Small Grants - what's the application process?
03-Jun-26	Small Grants - can organisations who applied in Year 1 also apply to Year 2?
03-Jun-26	Small grants – accessibility of the application process
03-Jun-26	Regional delivery – is there a requirement to cover all 7 local authority areas?
03-Jun-26	Is there a requirement for an evaluation/data capture/learning as part of the applications?
03-Jun-26	Length of programme. How long do we have to engage with participants? What is a realistic outcome?
03-Jun-26	Some organisations described the Year 1 reporting and monitoring as 'detailed' - Is it similar for Year 2 or more streamlined?
03-Jun-26	Small Grants - At the end of Year 1 we were asked to complete a financial report which we were not prepared for. Can we ensure we know what we are collecting from the start?
03-Jun-26	Small Grants - It would have been beneficial in Year 1 for grant recipients to come together as a cohort and for the managing agent to encourage this
03-Jun-26	Are Year 1 and Year 2 on the same pillars?
03-Jun-26	Has the MSA listened from the learning of Year 1? Can potential applicants see case studies etc. for the participants we want to engage with?
03-Jun-26	We are concerned that the job entry percentages are high. Could a focus could be more on distance travelled as opposed to job outcomes?
03-Jun-26	Can further education be counted as an outcome?
03-Jun-26	With the job entry targets, providers may end up 'cherry picking' participants?
03-Jun-26	Small Grants - who was the managing agent for Year 1?
03-Jun-26	Small Grants - can we encourage MSA to work with LA development officers.

03-Jun-26	Is the payment mechanism based on outcomes?
03-Jun-26	How can the MSA support applicants to create collaborative bids? Suggestion: Google doc where applicants can populate and circulate e.g. who wants to be a prime/subcontractor
03-Jun-26	Small Grants - what is the timeline? What is the application process?
03-Jun-26	LA local community partnerships (voluntary) are currently dormant and may be a solution for Small Grants Application and Assessment processes? This worked well in the past.
03-Jun-26	Can we see terms and conditions before applying?
03-Jun-26	Will applications require a social value section?
19-Jun-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring requirements – in the specification it mentions monthly monitoring and in the guidance it states quarterly – please confirm which is correct. • Finance Table – the funding sources has an error in line 15 proposal total. Annual Project Totals should Match the Project Expenditure Tab. Cell will turn Red if there is an error. The cells turn red when the info is correct. • Outputs and Outcomes – these tabs are already populated with outcomes and outputs are required to deliver all listed or can we choose which ones
20-Jun-26	There appears to be some uncertainty internally around whether this is a regional opportunity or whether funding will be awarded on a local authority basis. Having reviewed the specification and application guidance, my interpretation is that this is intended to be a single regional award
26-Jun-26	Objectives on the main form, are applicants expected to add 3 objectives only or to add more lines to the form?

Answer
This will be a lighter-touch process, based on a short business case. A managing agent will be appointed and will launch an open call.
Yes, organisations that received funding in Year 1 can apply in Year 2.
Learning from Year 1 highlighted the need to improve accessibility. While some requirements must remain due to DWP guidance, we will work with the managing agent to simplify language and improve accessibility as far as possible.
We expect delivery to cover the region, with a focus on areas of greatest need. Applicants should identify and evidence target areas ("hot spots"). There may be some variation between strands. Local authorities are open to early engagement from applicants.
An independent evaluator was contracted in Year 1 and will continue in Year 2 for a programme level evaluation. There is no requirement for project-level evaluation, although this would be eligible expenditure. Data capture will follow North East MSA requirements. including a participant registration form.
There is no minimum or maximum engagement period. Participants should be supported on a rolling basis, with delivery continuing through to March 2027. The intensity and duration of support should reflect individual need.
Core reporting requirements remain aligned with Year 1 due to DWP requirements. However, we have sought to clarify and streamline processes where possible.
We will work with the managing agent to ensure financial reporting requirements are clear from the outset.
We recognise the benefits of grant recipients working as a cohort and will explore how this can be supported through the managing agent.
Yes - P1 Local Infrastructure, P2 New Ways of Working (where this funding sits), P3 System Reform. The 3 pillars still exist in year 2.
Research reports from Year 1 will be published. Year 2 delivery is designed to build on this learning and address identified gaps.
Some programme parameters are set by DWP. Delivery partners will also be expected to demonstrate progress towards these outcomes.
Participation in further education can be recognised as a distance travelled outcome.
We expect delivery partners to focus on residents who are economically inactive and furthest from the labour market.
The managing agent for Year 1 was Community Foundation North East.
North East MSA works closely with all local authorities. The managing agent will also be expected to engage with local authorities in Year 2.

This is not a payment-by-results model. Funding will be paid quarterly in arrears.
We are keen to support partnership working and will explore ways to facilitate collaboration, including sharing information on organisations interested in partnering.
The open call is expected to launch in August, with delivery mobilised as soon as possible thereafter.
We will consider existing local partnership structures as part of programme design.
Terms and conditions will be made available prior to application.
Yes, social value will be a requirement for the three open-call strands.

Monitoring Requirements – Projects will be required to submit monthly participant and performance monitoring information, including Participant Registration Forms (PRFs), outputs, outcomes and delivery updates. Financial claims will be submitted quarterly in arrears. Finance Table – We are aware of an issue within the Funding Sources tab where the validation formula may incorrectly highlight cells in red. Applicants should ensure that the Annual Project Totals match the Project Expenditure tab and disregard the warning where figures reconcile correctly. Outputs and Outcomes – Applicants are expected to deliver the core outputs and outcomes specified within the specification. Distance travelled should be measured and evidenced through the wider outputs and outcomes framework contained within the finance tables, alongside a clear methodology for demonstrating participant progression towards employment.

For Section 2.3 (Objectives), applicants should include a minimum of three objectives. There is no maximum number, so if you feel additional objectives are necessary to clearly demonstrate how your proposal will deliver the specification, please feel free to add further lines to the form