

EventScotland Webinar 25/11/20: Scotland's Events Recovery Fund

Q&A Responses

1. Questions submitted during webinar

Question Asked	Response
Is there a requirement to match fund any award?	The guidance for applicants advises that we are looking for applicants to present balanced and achievable event budgets showing other income sources, including where possible funding contributions from other partners.
If a live event receives funding for later in the year and then is unable to go ahead due to restrictions, would monies already paid that would be lost, like deposits for venue hire, need to be paid back by the festival organisers?	Event organisers are asked to follow the Scottish Government guidelines in place at all times. Our funding agreements set out what would happen with any funding awarded and the event was not able to take place. Please discuss with your Events Manager.
Can the route A fund go towards equipment and training to help with hybrid events? Thanks.	For this fund, support can be used to support the core staging costs and safe delivery of your event. In this instance equipment and training would be eligible event delivery costs.
What is the reason for business events being ineligible?	SERF is established to support sporting and cultural events which are open to the public and business events have not been included within this fund as eligible events. We cannot give a definitive response as to when any funding may be available to support business events and recommend subscribing to VisitScotland's Business Events e-newsletter where any funding announcements will be made.
If you have funding carried over from 2020 from EventScotland, can the conditions of funding now change to allow funds to be spent on core, rather than additional activity as it would have been previously?	Revised funding agreements will be issued for all events with EventScotland funding postponed in 2020 and planned to take place in 2021.
It you have a healthy bank account is that you out already	We have to complete finance checks on all applicants as part of our due diligence in distributing public funding. Through this fund we are supporting the development and delivery of an event, rather than providing funding support towards core business costs.

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Can you call and speak to someone and get advice or to have to apply first?	Please complete the online enquiry form available at www.visitscotland.org/events/funding/make-a-funding-enquiry and one of the EventScotland team will be in touch to follow up your enquiry.
Would the purchase of COVID testing kits be classed as core or capital costs? Or costs directly associated to managing COVID restrictions.	In the guidance document we state that funds can be used to support the core staging costs and safe delivery of your event, including any additional COVID-19 related hygiene measures. In this instance COVID testing kits could be classed as core costs and would be eligible.
We have been funded by EventScotland 3 times at various times in the last 7 years, this did exclude us from applying again. Does this apply to this fund?	Events which have been funded previously through for example our National Events Programme are eligible to apply to this fund.
How do you define an event for the purposes of this fund please?	Eligible events for the purposes of this fund are defined as being planned sporting and cultural events and festivals taking place outdoors, indoors or online and which are open to the public to attend
Why no support for business events? In many cases they support growth and inward investment.	SERF is established to support sporting and cultural events which are open to the public and business events have not been included within this fund as eligible events. We cannot give a definitive response as to when any funding may be available to support business events, and recommend subscribing to VisitScotland's Business Events e-newsletter where any funding announcements will be made.
Could you apply to Route A to cover training costs that are related to an entire events programme or does it need to be connected to a single event?	Training costs around an individual event could be eligible for support. The focus should be on the event where support is being sought. Please discuss in more detail with one of the EventScotland team.
We have run an Annual Gathering. We have to make a decision in January as to whether one in 2021 will be practical. It involves people travelling into Scotland world-wide. When would an application have to be made for an August 2021 event?	There is no deadline for applying, however for an August 2021 event we do recommend that you apply at the appropriate time, and in this instance shortly after your decision in January 2021.
As an Association our event is for members, but those members are coming in from around the world. Is the fact that our event is usually over-subscribed by members are we excluded from applying.	We ask all applicants to include projected attendances with their applications, and the fact that an event has a sell-out attendance projected does not make the event ineligible. Please discuss the individual circumstances with your Events Manager.

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Are there required minimum/maximum projected visitor numbers for Route B events, and have those changed in light of Covid?	The expectation would be that events are attracting in the region of 500 total attendances in the context of restarting the sector, however this is a guideline figure and consideration will be given to geographic location including events in island and rural locations, digital/virtual events, and any current event restrictions in line with relevant Scottish Government legislation and advice.
Will these funds be able to be used for 2022 if the international borders do not open this year?	At the moment the fund is in place to support events through to the end of 2021.
Where I might locate the Guidance Document?	Please visit www.visitscotland.org/events/funding/recovery-fund
The guidance is going to evolve and change before next year, so therefore how important is compliance for an event later in 2021 with the current guidance when submitting?	Applicants are asked to follow the Government guidance at all times, when applying for funding and when planning and delivering the event. If there are changes to Guidance which impact positively or negatively on event plans, please contact the EventScotland team to discuss more fully.
Hi All, Many thanks for this. We have had to cancel 2 events this year and an additional event in January 2021. Would we be able to apply for all 3 or just the rescheduled events that were to take part this year?	The fund cannot be used retrospectively to fund cancelled events.
Can you explain the difference between regular music programming in a venue and a music festival as defined in the guidance document? We have members who organise music events in their local communities - all volunteer led.	We would see a music festival as a one-off or annual event. Regular music programming would include touring performances in venues, regularly scheduled performances or open-mic nights.
Think I picked up that the fund primarily supports sports and cultural events. Cultural events is quite a broad brush, could you give some examples of types of events you think would fall outside of this?	Please refer to the Application Guidance where more detail is provided on event types which are eligible to apply. This list is not exhaustive but illustrative of the type of events which may be eligible.
You mentioned the different tiers and current guidance for each tier. Can events that plan to be 'live' apply based on current restrictions at the moment rather than unknown restrictions in the future?	Applicants are asked to follow the Government guidance at all times, when applying and when planning and delivering the event. If there are changes to Guidance which impact positively or negatively on event plans, please contact the EventScotland team to discuss more fully.
The Route B application outlines you can apply for marketing / PR costs. Can these costs be additional marketing / PR costs or do they have to be existing costs?	For this fund, support can be used to support the core staging costs and safe delivery of your event. In this instance marketing/ PR costs can be existing costs.
Given the potential for vaccine availability which may open up the potential for live events, do you see the funding mechanisms changing?	The fund is in place to support events to the end of 2021, aiming to restart Scotland's events sector. There are no plans at present to change the funding mechanisms.

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You mentioned that the fund cannot be used for capital equipment. Does this include the purchase of items like PPE and outdoor shelters that enable Covid related adjustments be made to enable the event to proceed?	In the guidance document we state that funds can be used to support the core staging costs and safe delivery of your event, including any additional COVID-19 related hygiene measures. In this instance PPE could be classed as core costs and would be eligible.
What is the correct route to contact an event manager?	Please complete the online enquiry form available at www.visitscotland.org/events/funding/make-a-funding-enquiry and one of the EventScotland team will be in touch to follow up your enquiry.
Can a bigger event choose to go to Route A for £5k because they lack resources to complete onerous forms?	We'd recommend having a discussion with the EventScotland team to ensure that the appropriate application form is being used. Our application process has been streamlined for Route A and Route B with shorter application forms being available.

2. Questions submitted in advance of webinar

Question Asked	Response
Keen to know about grant support to help cover day to day over heads as we've had no clients able to travel in 2020	Unfortunately the Recovery Fund is not able to cover core business costs or overheads. The Fund is able to support event delivery costs which can include an allocation towards staffing and admin costs.
I had a quick look at this and it doesn't look as though this would be applicable to people who run conferences for business/education professionals in the UK?	The Recovery Fund has been set up to support sporting and cultural events and so business conferences are not eligible. We cannot give a definitive response as to when any funding may be available to support business events, and we recommend subscribing to the VisitScotland Business Events E-news where further information will be provided.
Simply ask the likelihood of funding availability for a series of events to celebrate the area running from mid May and culminating in the parade and fair involving local schools and community groups in mid June.	We're keen to receive applications from community groups to stage events in their areas when conditions allow. Please get in touch with the team to discuss your specific proposals.
I would like to know if I'm eligible for the funding. We supply to events up and down the country usually; from inflatable hire to galas and Highland Games, PA hire to many bands and artists, nightclub events and wedding entertainment.	The Fund is set up to support events organisers to deliver events, rather than for supporting the business costs of suppliers. If there is an idea for an event in development, please contact the EventScotland team to discuss in more detail.

Question Asked	Response
How far ahead can events be, viz June 2021?	We're inviting applications through to the end of 2021, so an event in June would be able to apply. Please get in touch with the team to discuss your plans in more detail.
This fund is about making an event Covid safe. My business will go for one year without income and being Covid safe is only a consideration if you can survive without income. Are there other funds that event organisers can apply to? I have a plan for doubling the size of my event and have demand ...BUT I don't have support to help the business survive and ES programmes to support growth are suspended?	<p>The Recovery Fund is principally about restarting Scotland's events industry and funding is available to support the delivery of events. This includes COVID safe costs, but also wider event delivery costs. Please contact the EventScotland team to discuss your ideas in more detail.</p> <p>For information on other funding sources please visit http://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/advice/coronavirus/financial-support.</p>
How much detail is required and do you need to submit a copy of annual accounts and constitution?	<p>There are different levels of detail needed depending upon which application form is submitted. For Route A we will need to receive quotes from suppliers to back up the amount being requested. For Route B we ask for more information and to show where events are making contributions towards the national events strategy. We do not need to receive annual accounts and copies of constitutions with your applications.</p> <p>Your Events Manager will guide you through what is required when discussing your enquiry.</p>
Numbers able to safely congregate for an event could be reduced by up to 70%. Will the fund cover the cost of empty seats?	We ask for event budgets to be submitted with the applications, and so would anticipate that in preparing those budgets allowances have been made for reduced capacities.
Would we be eligible to apply for two different events 6 months apart?	Yes, in principle an event organiser can apply for funding for different events, so please contact the team to discuss your ideas in more detail.
Organisations wanting clarification on whether they can have funding per event or if it's per company.	As above, guidelines permit applications for more than one event from an organiser. We will need to consider geographic spread, and it may be that not all event ideas are eligible for support.
Do you need quotes or are estimated costs enough, as requirements may change?	For Route A, quotes are required.
If someone has submitted and something comes up that they have not thought of can they resubmit their form.	The application form which is submitted should be the final completed version. With the volume of applications which the team are responding to we don't expect to receive updated application forms, once one has been submitted.

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Can the fund be administered for an New Year's Eve event?	Yes we're accepting applications from events which celebrate Hogmanay and Scotland's Winter Festivals. We have undertaken to provide a funding decision within 20 working days of an application being received.
How will payment be made? Will it be after the event and we will have to submit invoices or will it be on trust from application?	For Route A awards of up to £5,000 we will pay in advance subject to all of the required information being submitted with applications. Typically we would pay the majority of an event award for the Route B events in advance of the event but will retain a proportion for post-event reporting. In both instances this will be set out in the funding agreements and your Events Manager will confirm arrangements.
If an application is successful when will the funds will be received – will they be received in advance or arrears?	If an application is successful in receiving funding, then the awards will be made in line with the funding agreements.
There are costs of running Covid safe but the bigger cost is not being able to run an event at all. Is there support for those who invest in event that cannot be delivered? Arguably it may be more logical to cancel now. Events underpinned by Local Authorities have the breathing space to survive these issues, those without support do not.	Our funding support will go towards the costs of organising and delivering events, and not towards core business costs and overheads. We're asking organisers to follow Scottish Government guidelines at all times, and if an event cannot proceed as planned please contact the EventScotland team as early as possible to discuss and review options.
If funds are awarded can they be carried forward if the event does not go ahead in 2021, and do the funds have to be used as per application?	The funds should be used for the purpose which the agreements show, and usually that is the same as the application. The funding agreements will set out what would happen if an event had to be postponed or cancelled, and we do ask that you have an early discussion with the team if that is going to be likely.
What assumptions have been made regarding the virus next year... will social distancing, cleaning regimes etc still have to be in place?	We need to follow the Scottish Government guidelines at all times. There is specific guidance for the events sector, for cultural venues and for sports, as well as understanding what the Tiers are across the country, which have their own regulations. It's not appropriate to speculate on what changes may be in place in 2021, for the time being we need to follow the Government guidelines.