



### Welcome!

This is a short summary of the key content from our third The Ideas Fund webinar including:

- A brief update from the BSA about progress with the Fund so far – particularly around details about the application itself and what you can apply and budget for
- We also invite Chava Erlanger (a community artist) and Kat Cresswell (Vocal) to share their learnings from a project called Still Life using arts to support dialogue between researchers, midwives and the Jewish community around still birth.
- We hear from the Development Coordinators updating in the four localities and share their tips about building partnerships to consider for your grant.

If you need this in a different format, please [get in contact](#).



### Update from the Fund

**The application form will be available on our website during the week of the 5th of April.**

The questions are designed to be short and to the point and come with lots of guidance to help you think each question through. A version of the form will be made available soon.

**We're expecting decisions to be made and communicated by the end of July (not June as indicated earlier).**

We are working on plans to take a participatory grant making approach which will hopefully involve some of the decisions being taken by a panel with local representatives on, including research professionals and members of the community.

"This whole approach to the application journey has been a new way of working. We're open to receiving feedback at any point, so please do [share your thoughts](#) – both positive and constructive – with us. We will look to do a more in-depth 'look back' at whether the application process was successful after the application deadline on 14th May, so if you receive an email or invitation to get involved in that then please do take us up on it, because we'd love to hear about what has worked and what can be improved" –

Chris Manion, British Science Association

Linked [Blog Post](#)

Linked [Third Webinar Video](#)

**What does mental wellbeing mean to you?**

Second Webinar [Video](#)  
Summary & Reflection [Sheet](#)  
[FAQ](#) Document

**Why The Ideas Fund?**

First Webinar [Video](#)  
Summary & Reflection [Sheet](#)  
[FAQ](#) Document

[The Ideas Fund](#) Main Site

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Click this icon on the PDF to link directly to the webinar at the right time

**Application Form Available:**

Week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Deadline:**

14 May Midday

**Decisions:**

July (not June)

**Local Workshops**

The next dates shown here. [See online](#) & page 4 for further local information and dates.

**Highlands & Islands**

Thursday 11 March, 10am

**NW Northern Ireland**

Thursday 11 March, 2pm

**Hull**

Friday 12 March, 10am

**Oldham**

Friday 12 March, 2pm



### The Ideas Fund grant budgets

#### Apply for how much you need

Although we're talking about Early Stage Ideas of up to £25k, or Developed Ideas of around £90k, you can apply for amounts in between and around these figures – it doesn't have to be one of the other in terms of budget size. If you think you need something in the middle, say around £40k or £50k, you will be able to submit an application on that basis too.

£90k is a ballpark figure for the larger grants – the maximum you can apply for would be £120k but we would expect grants of that size to be quite rare.

There isn't a lower limit for grant size but bear in mind that we expect early stage ideas to be around 6–9 months in length and so the budget should reflect this, rather than being a one-off activity.

Do think through your costs and make sure you've factored everything in as best you can – there will be some guidance as to what can and can't be included.

If you're thinking of applying but are not sure about how much to ask for, please do [get in touch](#) with the Development Coordinators who can support you with this.

Also, if you're wanting to apply as a very informal group but you don't have your own bank account or feel you have the processes to manage the money, again please don't be put off. We will be working to find a host who can manage money on your behalf if you're in that position.

"I also wanted to clarify that we won't be using any rigid benchmarks in terms of 'value for money'. So although the application form will ask how many people you would like to work with in your project, there isn't a target figure of the number of people who will benefit for every £10k you apply for, or anything like that. Of course the panel will sense check your idea and raise queries if numbers look really high or low, but there won't be a formal framework that this is assessed or compared against. There are a lot of different approaches that you might want to take which could mean really deep engagement with a smaller number of people, or broader engagement with a wider community and we are open to supporting projects across a range of these approaches."  
Chris Manion, British Science Association

#### What can I spend the grant on? (from [the FAQ](#))

- Salaries or fees for people who are essential to the proposal such as project lead, researchers, artists or consultants
- Participant costs if relevant
- Materials and consumables
- Equipment that is essential to the project
- Production costs, including marketing
- Travel and subsistence relevant to the proposal
- Room hire & catering
- Accessibility costs (e.g. translation, child-care)
- Evaluation and dissemination of the work
- Overheads can only account for a maximum of 20% of your grant

#### You cannot use the grant to cover things such as:

- Costs incurred before your proposed activity starts
- Activities/partnerships outside the UK
- Activities mainly or solely within schools or formal education settings
- Emergency, top-up or maintenance funding
- Continued delivery of existing activities (funding should be used in a structured way to test ideas, solve problems, forge partnerships etc.)
- Loans, investments, or capital costs
- Delivery of frontline services, healthcare services or interventions (including arts therapy)



### Still Life Project


One potential way of bridging the gap between research and communities is by using arts and creativity.


**Still Life** is an example of a project using arts as a way to explore the very sensitive topic of stillbirth with an underrepresented group - Jewish women who had experienced this - and building trust and shared understanding with researchers and midwives.

Participants were involved through community partners and took part in workshops with community artist **Chava Erlanger**. The women were supported to use different artistic mediums to share their experiences and understand more about the research around the placenta and stillbirth alongside midwives and researchers.

The creative mediums allowed the participants to express themselves, with many finding it therapeutic, and the resulting art, poetry and sculpture was shared at an exhibition. The project led to the breaking down of some of the barriers between the community and the hospital, and the development of religious guides for the NHS trust to help better support and understand the cultural context for working with Jewish women.

Whilst this was a project which was led by the researchers, including Dr Michelle Desforge, so wouldn't have been eligible for The Ideas Fund, Chava and **Kat Cresswell** who worked on the project shared some of their top practical advice:

 "...Main thing is being open-minded, and really listening to the community...it's not us up there, you know, especially with researchers [and] doctors put on a pedestal. Make it an integrated project...we had a very strict rule that in the workshops, researchers and doctors all had to take part. So it's not the community and the government body or whatever body coming from the outside. And we had to be very strict about boundaries. So for example, I'm part of the Jewish community, I had to be very strict about privacy, phone calls, all those type of things, what I can give and what they can accept from me. And I think being very realistic about what you can achieve. Another important thing when you're applying for funds, people look at numbers, you think about quantities. It's not about quantity, it's about quality. You know, having six, seven solid participants is much more useful than, you know, ticking a box of 30 participants and not reaching what you want" – Chava Erlanger

 "...just a really practical thing, is setting up partnership agreements. So just starting straight from the off an understanding of what are your aims and objectives, what are the expectations for the different parties? So...she [Chava] knew what the budget was. And also discussing things like who's holding the intellectual property" – Kat Cresswell



"..There is a rule, the minority knows more about the majority than the majority know about the minority...I always say knowledge is power" – **Chava Erlanger**

"Sometimes researchers can get really detached from the thing that they're researching...I think everyone who came along took something from it because actually we all experience grief... we were all talking at a very human level" – **Kat Cresswell**



The project booklet will be shared on the [Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre website](#)

[A blog](#) discussing the project

[Project Facebook page](#)


Chavasart [Artist Website](#)

Dr Michelle Desforges [research page](#):




### Practical advice for building researcher-community partnerships

#### Factor in administration and management, fair remuneration, access costs and discuss safeguarding and attribution


 "When you are applying for a grant, make sure you budget in things like a coordinator, or someone that will do your paperwork. And don't be scared to ask for the right amount of money. Because one of the biggest mistakes, and I've done it in the past, is under-budgeting your project, and then it just fizzles out and doesn't finish. So do look out for government guidelines, charity guidelines [for fair payment and union rates]. But definitely a large project needs somebody like Kat behind you, because, you know, it's about teamwork, and knowing your limitations really."  
- Chava Erlanger



 "I think a lot of it is just about how we value everyone's time and very practically, as someone who finds the administration or the finance aspects of this can be quite intimidating. I think that's okay to be intimidated...but please do ask for the support and build in that support where you can. So do talk about things like we mentioned in terms of like who should be paid and what is a fair rate, copyright and attribution, you know, remuneration. Obviously access needs. It's not always about money but it is thinking about how do we make sure that everyone is valued, and thinking of things like safeguarding and managing risks just like you would, for lots of other different types of projects. And it can feel a little bit different, because we are asking some people to potentially do something a bit new with researchers....So it's just about navigating that together, and making sure you have built in and where possible, if we can build in funding within the grant to actually support you to develop that long term capacity or bring in staff members locally, then that leads to impacts outwith the grant itself, which I think is only a good thing." – Lewis Hou

#### Respect and play to each others strengths as a partnership and be able to articulate this



 "I think it's like entering into any working partnership really, and especially if it's a new kind of relationship and you haven't worked with a particular party before, it can just be useful to do some really basic groundwork about what are the values, and what are the ways of working, you know, that you each want to commit to, and the values that you want to see coming across in the partnership and in the project. And in that just sort of get to know you phase really build in that recognition of what the different parties are bringing, what the strengths and the assets are of each party. And then I guess sort of everyone understanding why working in partnership will make the project stronger than any one party doing it alone..." Erin Mc Feely

#### Next Steps In Each Locality

##### Highlands and Islands

Groups can join smaller themed conversations & a forum to share ideas [here](#). Expression of interest for researchers is available [here](#). [Get in touch with Lewis.](#)

##### North West Northern Ireland

A survey monkey is being shared to help tailor support and support further conversations. [Get in touch with Roisin.](#)

**Hull** There will be thematic workshops coming up. To help with planning, please complete [this survey](#). Dates to be announced soon. [Get in touch with Harriet.](#)

**Oldham** Groups are asked to [fill a survey](#) to understand their project further and to plan next workshops along with the option to join a public document to ask for collaboration available [here](#). [Get in touch with Paolo.](#)


 "It's never too late to keep learning from the community. So keep having those conversations and helping them to explore the resources and assets that they have and identifying those gaps. And also keep reflecting on conversations that the community have had in the past as well because there might be some really key nuggets of information in there" – Harriet Johnson



### Practical advice for building researcher-community partnerships

#### Ask about each others expectations, values & things you aren't so confident about and how the partnership can support this





 "I think it's about being really clear around the expectations that you have of each other. Who is going to do what? When? And as part of this discussion, it's really important that you explore your values as a group and as a partnership.

What are the values that really connect you at an organisational and a personal level, and will push your project forward?

I also think it's really important that at this stage you open up about insecurities about the process and how you can work together to overcome these using the skills and resources in the partnership." – Paolo Arru

#### Build in check-ins & relationship-development time

 "...it's that curiosity to learn from each other. And that bridge that's going to be created between the researcher and the community. That seems really exciting. But also, I think it's when your relationships are connected, and you're honest, and you have good communication. And there's plenty of equity there.... I think what's really important when you have a partnership is to build that time in to plan the work together.." – Harriet Johnson


 "...it sounds obvious, but structuring in things like clear touchpoints like having conversations. I know that sounds very basic but ultimately, I'm also aware that it is a difficult time for the sector. I think very often when time is busy then sometimes those check-ins can be the first things to go...When you're building your partnerships, what does it look like to make sure that you've got that time built in as much as you can?

And contingency as well. These are emerging relationships and there's only so much of a relationship you can build within the next six weeks, even before the application goes in. So it's important to be realistic about that, and being open to what might happen, whilst also structured enough so we understand and get a meaningful sense [of the project]. Things will happen, things will change, things will go wrong, people and personnel might change, or different circumstances might develop. So again, it's about having those really frank conversations, to talk through some of those key things." – Lewis Hou

 "I think being honest & open is really important. And setting clear expectations is really important as well, raising issues early if there are any.... Sometimes we can get really busy and we forget to have the check-ins, and they're really important as well, going forward with the partnership" – Roisin McLaughlin



#### Clarify your language together

 "And then the last point is language. We all use language in different ways. I think within academics versus community settings – "public engagement" or "impact" – these things can mean completely different things or nothing at all. And so just clarifying your terms together and having those types of conversation – ideally over a cup of tea, but that might be a wee bit harder online!" Lewis Hou

 "It's about respecting each other as both parties in the idea development, building trust in the relationship, putting in time to collaborate.... a lot of people won't know each other so it is going to be quite a tough ask in a short time. But also, we're here to support that process as well. So if people are feeling unsure about things, do contact us [Development Coordinators] because that's part of what we're here for!" Dr Gill Hughes



# What does a good partnership look like to you?

## Reflection



These prompts are just suggestions. You can type in the PDF directly or feel free to print out!

These reflection questions are based on themes from our third The Ideas Fund webinar and may be helpful in thinking through and developing your project as you go along and stimulate useful conversations with your community and partners, researchers & the Development Coordinators. This is an optional personal support tool & though these questions may complement the final application form, you will not be asked to share them.



### What does a good partnership look like to you?

What does a good partnership look like to you? What values are most important to you?

What questions would you want to ask and know from your partners?

### What are your strengths & weaknesses individually? And together?

You may find it useful to do this separately with your partners.

What strengths do you have as a individual group/organisation? Assets, expertise etc.

What weaknesses do you have? Things you aren't as confident in?

How can a partnership bring new strengths?  
Can it still have weaknesses, in which case what other support is needed?

	Individually	As a Partnership
Strengths		
Weaknesses		

### What challenges may come up? How can a partnership support these?

What other challenges might come up in the project? e.g. continued lockdown restrictions, reduced capacity, staff change?

How could a poor partnership exacerbate these challenges?

How would you mitigate this? What would a strong partnership do instead?

# What does a good partnership look like to you?

## Reflection



### Who is responsible and involved in what aspects of the project?



You may find it useful to discuss and put into writing the different expectations, needs and responsibilities involved in your project as your plan and budget develop. This isn't an exhaustive list, and will evolve, but hopefully this is a useful starting point to consider together.

#### **Planning**

How do you decide on the plans together?

How will you build in flexibility as things develop? What other opportunities exist if it's not funded?

#### **Management**

How can communities lead the project overall and what support is needed? How is decision-making shared (esp. with wider community members through the project)? How will challenges and changes be managed?

#### **Delivery & Access**

Who is delivering & leading which parts? What do they need to empower them? What access needs are there?

#### **Safeguarding & managing risks**

What risks might there be in delivery? How will this be managed?

#### **Finances**

Whose time and what expenses should be covered? What is fair? Who will manage this?

#### **Evaluation & Learning**

Who decides what success looks like? How can learning be embedded throughout and shared?

#### **Outputs & Legacy**

Who will be attributed? Who owns the outputs and how will this be shared? What happens next? What is a good ending of the partnership?