

FURTHER EDUCATION ACTIVATION FUND

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PARTICIPANTS

Is FE Activation Fund funding just for the 14-18 age range?

No it is not. The investment is aimed at providing opportunities for **ALL** students within colleges. We see FE colleges as a key area for retaining 14-18 year olds in sport, but also in reaching and engaging the 19+ and we encourage a broad sport offer that caters for students of all ages.

Can participants be on short courses, be part time or on HE courses within the college?

The FE Activation Fund investment is to benefit students enrolled at colleges regardless of the course they are on. However, we are looking for colleges to be able to encourage and engage students in regular sporting activity. Therefore, we are looking for projects that can engage students for a period of time that is sufficient to change behaviour and create a sporting habit, so that when students leave college they are inspired to continue to take part in sport.

What is the definition of regular sports participation?

Sport England's definition of regular sports participation is 1 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport a week, throughout the year. Therefore, this will include both term time and non term time participation for FE students. This does not mean that FE Activation Fund projects need to deliver for 52 weeks of the year, but colleges must consider how students can access sporting opportunities throughout the year. Community partners could play a key role here.

ELIGIBILITY

Can a college apply if they have already benefited from FE Activation Fund Round 1?

All colleges can benefit from a maximum of two Active Colleges awards. Therefore, if your college is benefiting from an FE Activation Fund Round 1 project and a College Sport Maker, you cannot apply to the FE Activation Fund Round 2. However, if your college is only currently benefiting from an FE Activation Fund Round 1 project, you are eligible to apply for Round 2.

Can schools be partners within a FE Activation fund application?

Yes. However, at least 80% of the project beneficiaries must be FE college students and all beneficiaries must be aged 14 years and over. Any activities taking place on a school site must be delivered out of school curriculum hours, should not be open to just school students, and must be delivered by a community partner. The schools involvement in the project must be clearly linked to the overall aim of the project.

What are the implications for colleges that have merged since Active Colleges funding began?

If colleges have merged since the beginning of Active Colleges investment, eligibility will be based on the college status at the time of the application. Therefore if College A and College B have both received investment in previous rounds of Active Colleges as separate colleges, and College A and B have now merged, they will not be eligible to apply for further investment as the merged college is already benefiting from two Active Colleges projects.

Are NATSPEC colleges eligible to apply?

If the college is a designated member of the AoC in 2013-14, the college can apply as an individual applicant. If not, the college will need to partner with a college that does meet one of the eligible definitions.

FUNDING, PARTNERSHIP FUNDING AND ELIGIBLE COSTS

Can applicants apply for (a) more than £90,000 for projects benefiting students from one FE College, or (b) more than £180,000 for projects benefiting students from two or more FE Colleges?

We expect applications at the top end of the funding limits to be the exception, rather than the rule, and anticipate applications for two years of funding to be at the lower to middle end of these scales. However, if your projected project costs are higher than the top end of either of the two funding bands, please discuss this with Sport England via the funding helpline before submitting your application.

What items can be used as in-kind partnership funding contributions?

All partnership funding (cash and in kind) must be 'additional' (*i.e.* above and beyond any existing provision) and must demonstrate that they are directly related to interventions and activity within the delivery plan. Partnership funding must contribute towards eligible project costs.

In-kind partnership funding contributions must have some form of value that can be clearly costed.

Some examples of eligible in kind funding contributions could be:

- Free or discounted facility hire from a local leisure provider (if discounted, the discount will be the 'in kind value');
- Free or discounted coaching from a community provider;
- Costs associated with the production of marketing material;
- Free or discounted costs for students to access community provision;
- Free or discounted costs for the use of college facilities, during hours where the facility is normally open for hire to external partners.

Can I apply for minibus training costs?

Yes, if minibus transport is needed to successfully deliver elements of the project. However, we would expect this to be a one off cost during the project duration and only a small percentage of the total cost of the project.

If I am applying for funding to top-up an existing part-time post, what is the partnership funding requirement?

Sport England can only contribute to the additional hours or days of the post, and the partnership funding requirement will be 30% cash of the total cost of these additional hours or days only. For example, if the staff member currently works two days per week and the project aims to make this a five days a week post, the maximum you can apply for is 70% of the total cost of the additional three days only. The college will need to contribute 30% towards the additional days.

Can I apply to the FE Activation Fund for the cost of coaching qualifications?

Yes, as long as the coaching courses are relevant to the delivery of the project, they are not already included within a sport study programme and the cost of the course is considered reasonable by Sport England. In addition, the number and level of qualifications offered must be appropriate for activities being delivered through your project. If coaching qualifications are offered as part of your project, you may want to consider putting a service level agreement in place with the beneficiaries to ensure they deliver on your project. We would not expect to fund coaching or leadership qualifications that are contributing to a sports students study programme.

Sport England will not fund costs associated with academic delivery. What constitutes costs associated with academic courses?

We would not expect to see any costs linked to teaching or the direct delivery of academic courses leading to accredited qualifications. Furthermore, FE Activation Fund funding should not contribute to the study programmes of students on courses relating to sport, fitness or physical activity.

For non-sport students, any costs relating to timetabled enrichment sport and physical activity sessions that cannot be met through DfE funding, could be funded through the FE Activation Fund.

Please can you give further guidance on the £10,000 cap on equipment?

The £10,000 cap on equipment is based on the Sport England request and not the total project costs. However, if the total equipment costs are over £10,000 these will be discussed with you on a case by case basis during the assessment process.

No individual item of equipment should cost more than £10,000.

In terms of service costs of equipment, these do not contribute to the £10,000 cap, but you will need to outline what the cost is for and this will be discussed on a case by case basis during assessment. These costs should be clearly linked to the project and should be proportional to the total project costs.

Can the FE Activation Fund be used to continue existing sessions or activities once NGB funded sessions have stopped?

No. FE Activation Fund funding cannot be used to continue existing activity, including those activities that may have been initiated through a CSM delivery plan. All activities within a CSM delivery plan should be sustainable or have clear exit routes. If you are unable to sustain activities that were delivered by an NGB, please speak to the NGB about how they might assist you in sustaining the activity. Alternatively, please consider any CSM underspend.

I have a really popular activity happening at my college, can I use the FE Activation Fund to expand the number of times this session is run?

Yes. You can increase the range and frequency of existing opportunities/activities as long as the additional provision allows more students to take part rather than providing for those students already taking part.

Is it ok to put in travel expenses for workforce if they have to move between sites as part of the project?

Costs associated with travel for workforce are acceptable project costs as long as they are justifiable and reasonable, and we would expect them to only be a small percentage of the overall project costs. If the projected costs are extensive, we would suggest colleges consider if they are implementing the most appropriate workforce model.

Can I apply for a climbing wall?

You can apply for a climbing wall but it depends on the capital value. If the cost of the item is over £10,000, it would not be an eligible cost. Some colleges have received small grants for climbing walls and equipment, so this might be a potential avenue for this type of requirement.

WORKFORCE

What is the difference between 'sports development' capacity and 'other' capacity?

Sports development capacity refers to a sports development role at a support staff or equivalent level, such as a College Sport Maker type role. These roles are focused on facilitating partnerships and coordinating new activity to enhance student sport provision. 'Other' capacity roles are focused on the delivery of activity such as coaches, supervisors, apprentices, activators etc.

Can I apply for someone to run or coordinate BCS competition?

The FE Activation Fund is about providing new opportunities to more students, based on student demand, and any new workforce must be focused on delivering this. We cannot, however, fund posts to work with existing teams and existing BCS activity.

Can any college apply for a full time sports development post or just those that did not get a College Sport Maker?

Any college can apply for a full time sports development post as long as they can justify the need for the role and they can meet the minimum partnership funding requirement. For colleges with a College Sport Maker, they will need to make a good case for why additional capacity is needed and demonstrate clear added value.

Can workforce posts be shared across colleges?

Yes, if it is what is needed to deliver a successful project.

What is the definition of a Sports Activator?

Skills Active have worked with a number of NGBs and associated sporting organisations to try and establish how to define an Activator and understand what skills are required. The following has been suggested as a definition of activation in sport *'inspirational engagement leading to sustained participation'*.

Within this, three key roles or areas of work were established:

- **community engagement**; the art of engaging with a given population/community to 'activate' them to turn up to sessions in the first place;
- **activity facilitation**; delivery of an enjoyable, inspirational and engaging session, 'activating' individuals to take part and return;
- **administration/planning/reporting**; ensuring everything is in place for 'activation' to take place – facilities are booked, risk assessments complete etc.

The role of activators/the skills of activation within sport should be seen as a valuable one and not seen merely as an 'almost' coach. They should be seen as tools to link into more formal sporting participation – acting as a bridge between the target population and a traditional coached environment.

ADDITIONALITY

How do I show additionality if I already have received funding from Sport England?

If you are applying for more funding from Sport England, we would need to see added value in terms of activity and targets. Some ways that colleges could potentially demonstrate added value are:

- Different post on different site(s);
- Different posts with specific target group focus;
- Workforce to enhance delivery;
- New activities;
- Same activities but on different sites or open to more students;
- Additional targets.

What involvement can the College Sport Maker (CSM) have in an FE Activation Fund application?

We would not expect the CSM to project manage or coordinate the project.

The CSM should not be responsible for collecting and reporting participant and throughput data.

The CSM should not be the project lead, project contact or complete the project paperwork.

The CSM can manage other staff at a lower level such as apprentices and activators as long as it does not detract from their CSM delivery and they are confident CSM targets can still be achieved in addition to any new targets of the new post(s).

We would expect linkage and CSM involvement in the project to ensure that there is no duplication in terms of target audience and work areas, and also to encourage learning and sharing of ideas.