

Frequently Asked Questions

What do you mean when you say ‘in immediate difficulty’?

We understand immediate difficulty as an inability to meet essential costs at the present time.

What if I am not freelance?

If you are not freelance you should not apply. We advise you to investigate UK Government provision for wages and salaries threatened by COVID-19 and/or the wider benefits system.

What if I operate as a company?

If you are a sole Director of a Limited Company, you will be eligible if you were not eligible to be furloughed through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and if your business registered address and your home address are both in Scotland.

Is this fund open to actors and stand-ups, comedy writers and promoters?

Yes.

What if I have a portfolio practice (i.e., I am active in multiple art forms)?

In this situation we ask you to select the one role you think best describes the activity from which you derive the majority of your income and/or which aligns with the creative sector in which the majority of work on your CV or statement has taken place. For example, if you are a writer and a musician and work mainly in music, you should select musician. If you are a visual artist and an actor and mainly work in theatre, you should select actor. We have included roles such as actor/dancer and actor/musician in recognition of cross-artform working in performing arts.

What if my role is in retail, catering or other support functions in the creative sector?

We are prioritising support to creative freelance professionals whose primary source of income comes from their creative work. We advise you to investigate UK Government provision for wages and salaries threatened by COVID-19 and/or the wider benefits system.

Can I apply if I have previously received support through the Hardship Fund for Creative Freelancers?

Yes. For the March 2021 round of the fund, we are allowing any previous recipients to apply for a further supplemental award if they still remain in immediate financial need.

Can I request funds more than once?

You can only apply once to this round of the fund – whether you are a new applicant or a previous recipient – so please don't make multiple submissions using different email accounts. If you wish to apply for a longer-term project to sustain your practice, please refer

to the revised Creative Scotland Open Fund for Individuals: Sustaining Creative Development.

Can I resubmit a request if I have been unsuccessful?

No, because of the volume of applications we are expecting, and the tight turnaround to deal with applications, we ask all applicants to make sure they provide all the information required in their submission, so we can make an informed decision, and we aren't able to allow re-applications if your first application is unsuccessful.

Can more than one person in the same household request funds from Creative Scotland and/or external funds?

Yes – we recognise that more than one person in a household may be a freelance artist or freelance creative practitioner. If each individual meets the eligibility criteria and has a separate bank account in their name, they are eligible. Where more than one person is applying from the same household each individual should ensure they are only requesting funds relating to their personal share of costs.

What is the overall budget for the fund?

Since October 2020, the overall budget for the Hardship Fund for Creative Freelancers has been £17m. £8m was allocated through the Hardship Fund for Creative Freelancers and the Screen Scotland Hardship Fund between October 2020 and February 2021. A further £9m has been allocated by the Scottish Government to support the fund in March 2021.

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for between £500 and £2000 (plus access costs).

What are access costs?

Access costs are the costs of making sure everyone has access to our support and the work we fund. You can request a contribution to your access costs if you have experienced additional costs over and above your daily living costs during COVID 19 as a result of a disability or need to remain shielding. As a contribution this is expected to be proportionate to the level of the award and is not expected to exceed the level of the award itself.

What if my need is not immediate?

If your need is not immediate, please be mindful of the collective needs of your peers. If you require support to sustain your creative practice, you may wish to consider making an application to the Creative Scotland Open Fund for Individuals: Sustaining Creative Development, which is currently open on a rolling basis.

If I am awarded support through this fund, will it affect my chances of claiming other benefits?

You should make your own checks in terms of the potential impact the award of hardship funding would have on any benefits payments you may be seeking or already in receipt of. It is your responsibility to consider the impact of a request to these funds on any other support you intend to access.

What details should I include in my CV/Biog that I submit to you?

Please be as specific as possible about your work as a creative freelancer, including names of organisations and employers. For example, if you play in a band, please tell us the name of the band, venues you've played in or record labels you've worked with; If you're a dancer, it would be helpful to know what companies have you danced with and where have you performed. Whatever your role, the more information you can provide on your specific work in the sector, the more helpful this is for us. All these details help us to understand that you're working as a freelancer in the Scottish arts or creative sector and are eligible for the fund.

How will you stop lots of people who don't need the money requesting funds?

Our priority in this moment of unprecedented instability for those working in the arts and creative industries is to get funds to those who need them. We are not making the process competitive or and we are limiting the evidence we require of need. Instead we are relying on artists and creative freelancers to be mindful of the collective needs of their peers when choosing to request funds. We trust our artistic community to respect this way of working at this time.

How quickly will I get the money?

For the March round of the fund, Creative Scotland is aiming to inform all applicants of their decisions by no later than 6 weeks after submission. Where possible we will process requests more quickly but we are mindful of the potential volume of requests and the potential of delays within Creative Scotland due to staff absence or illness. Should published timescales alter, we will be in touch with all applicants.

Do I need to tell you what I want to spend the money on?

No. In this unprecedented moment, where individuals are experiencing a range of financial challenges, we are not being prescriptive about how you use the funds. They are to help you meet essential costs at the present time and sustain yourself as an artist or creative practitioner.

Why are you asking me about impact and other funds I have applied for?

This is to help us monitor and understand the situation and to inform our wider organisational response. Please provide only as much detail as you feel comfortable giving.

Can I apply to the Hardship Fund as well as the Open Fund for Individuals: Sustaining Creative Development?

Yes you can, however please note that both funds are for different purposes. This Hardship Fund is for those experiencing immediate difficulty whereas the Open Fund is intended to support longer term plans and projects.

Do I need to apply for the full £2,000?

No. We are asking people to request only what they need to address immediate difficulty due to loss of earnings directly due to COVID-19. We want to help as many people in immediate distress as we can.

Will you publish the names of people who have been awarded funds?

Yes. As a public funder we are required to publish the names and basic details of all those in receipt of funding through Creative Scotland. These awards will be published as part of our monthly listings, published every month, one month in arrears, on our website.