

The West Midlands Future Growth Grants

Information and how to apply



Easy
Read

Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



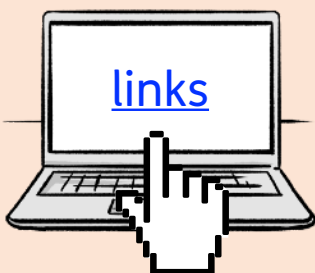
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



This booklet is from the **West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)**.



The **West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)** is a group of 18 local authorities. We are working together to make the West Midlands a better place to live.



We would like to give **grants** to some arts organisations and individuals. A **grant** is a set amount of money.



Future Growth Grants

We are calling these grants: **West Midlands Future Growth Grants**.

This booklet will tell you:



- About our West Midlands Future Growth Grants.



- How you can apply for a West Midlands Future Growth Grant.

Who are the West Midlands Future Growth Grants for?



The grants are for:

- Arts organisations.



- Individuals.

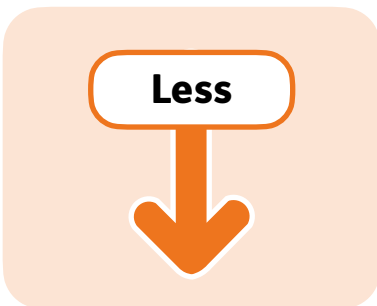


- Groups of individuals that are not official organisations.



We will only give grants to arts organisations and individuals that are in these areas:

- Birmingham.
- Coventry.
- Dudley.
- Sandwell.
- Solihull.
- Walsall.
- Wolverhampton.



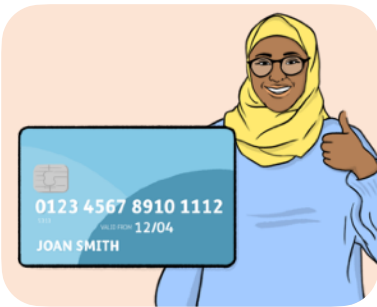
We will also be looking at giving a smaller number of grants to arts organisations and individuals that are in these areas:

- Cannock Chase.
- North Warwickshire.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- Redditch.
- Rugby.
- Shropshire.
- Stratford-on-Avon.
- Tamworth.
- Telford and Wrekin.
- Warwickshire.



If you are a group of individuals, most of the people in your group need to live in one of these areas:

- Birmingham.
- Coventry
- Dudley
- Sandwell
- Solihull
- Walsall
- Wolverhampton



If you are an individual or a group of individuals, you must all have a UK bank account.

What are the West Midlands Future Growth Grants for?



The West Midlands Future Growth grant must be spent on a project that is being done with a partner in a different country.



The project must be:

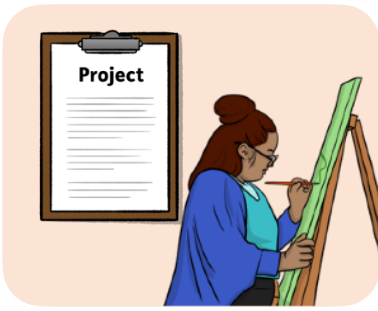
- A **research and development project**, or



- A project where you work with partners in other countries to improve your work and meet new people.



A **research and development project** involves collecting and looking at information to find out new things.



The project should focus on the arts and culture.

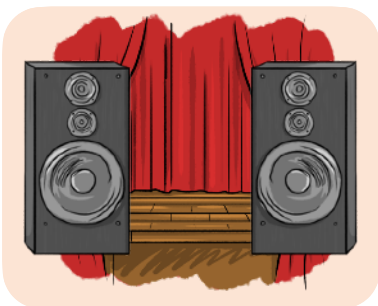


Examples of this kind of project include:

- Making a piece of artwork.



- **Arts research** - this is when you collect and look at information to find out new things about art or how to make it.

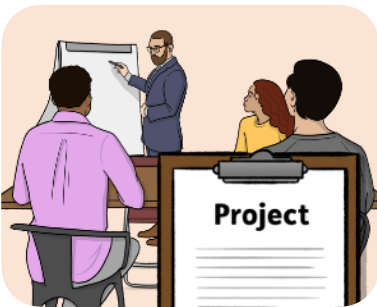


- A music festival, show or other event.

Organisations and individuals might use their grants to:



- Become partners with a new person or new groups in different countries.



- Support a project they are already doing with a person or group in a different country.



- Start a new project with a person or group in a different country.



- Share a project they are already doing with more people.



Organisations and individuals might use their grant to travel to other countries.



The project can take place:

- In person.



- Online.



- Both in person and online.



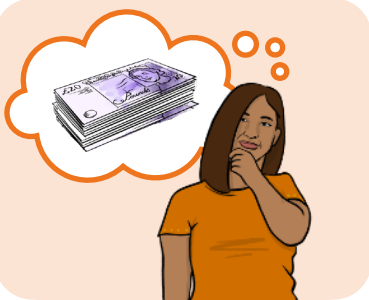
Project activities must be finished by 31 December 2024.

How much money are the West Midlands Future Growth Grants?



£2500 to £8000

We are giving £2500 to £8000 for projects.

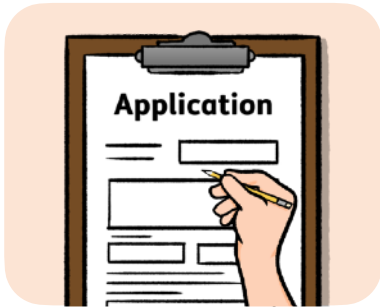


Organisations and individuals must work out how much money they would like to ask for.



If an organisation or individual gets a West Midlands Future Growth Grant, they cannot get another international grant from us.

How can I get a West Midlands Future Growth Grant?



You must apply if you or your organisation would like a West Midlands Future Growth Grant.



You will be able to apply on the grant website here:

wmcaculture.grantplatform.com

To apply you will need to follow these steps:



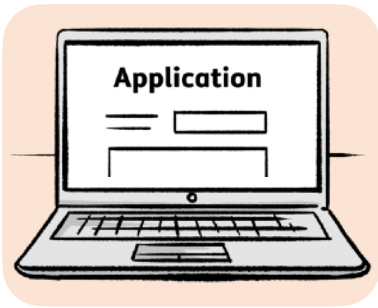
1. Make an account on the grant website.



2. Answer the questions in the 'eligibility quiz'.



3. Answer the questions in the application about yourself or your organisation, and your suggested activities.



4. Send your application.



5. If you get a grant, you must then read and sign a grant agreement and give us your bank details.



The application will include questions about:

- You or your organisation.



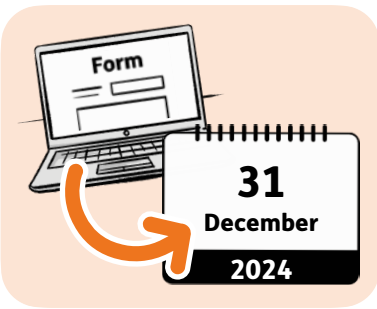
- Your project.



The application will also include questions about how much money you are asking for, and what you would spend it on.



If you get a grant, you will get most of the money after you sign the grant agreement.



You must fill in a final form by 31 December 2024 about what you did.



You will then get the rest of your money.



You must not start your project before you sign the grant agreement.

What costs should you include in your application?



In your application, you must explain how much money you are asking for and what you would spend it on.



You must spend the money on costs that are to do with your project.

This might include things like:



- Travel costs, like transport tickets and hotel stays.

If you travel anywhere for your project you must buy travel insurance. This can be included in your travel costs.



- Paying to go to events that will help with your project.



You might also spend the money on materials or equipment that are needed to make your project happen.

We cannot give you money for:



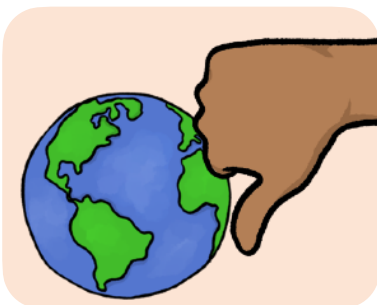
- Costs that are not to do with your project.



- Any project activities that have already happened.



- Project activities that will take place after 31 December 2024.



- Project activities that do not work with partners in other countries.

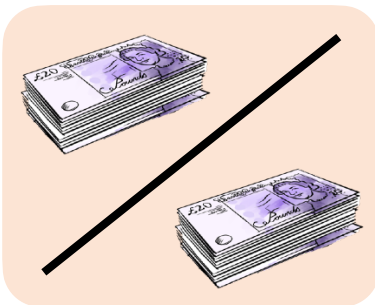
Personal access costs



Personal access costs include any money that you will spend on making sure you can take part in your project.



Like paying for a carer who will help you take part.



Personal access costs are separate from your other costs.



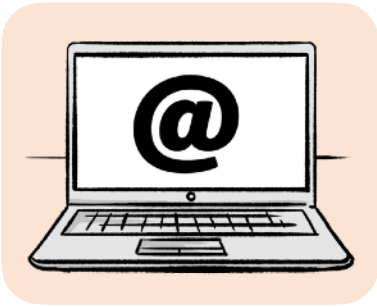
If you are not sure about anything to do with costs you can email:

culture@wmca.org.uk

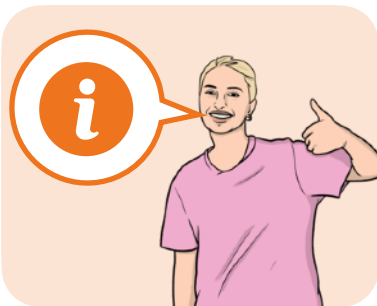


Please put 'international fund' in the 'subject' box when you email us.

Help with the application



If you need any help with your application you can email:
culture@wmca.org.uk



You can also ask for any information to be given to you in a way that you understand, like braille.



We cannot tell you exactly what to write when you do your application, but we can give you advice on what should be included.

How we will make a decision



Our **panel** will decide who gets a West Midlands Future Growth Grant.



A **panel** is a group of people. Our panel includes people from:

- The West Midlands Combined Authority.
- The British Council.

Our panel will look at everyone's applications. They will focus on:



- Whether your application meets our requirements.



- The project and what it is about.

The panel will also focus on:



- Whether the project will involve you working with a person or group in a different country.



- What the money will be spent on.



- Whether the project will be finished by 31 December 2024.



- How your project might carry on helping you or other people in the future.

What happens next



If you would like to apply for a West Midlands Future Growth Grant, you need to do this by 29 April 2024.



You will find out if you have got the grant up to 8 weeks after the 29 April 2024



We will then ask you for some extra information so that we can give you the first part of the money.



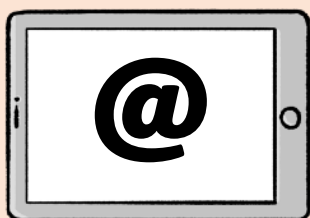
Remember, you must not start your project before you sign the grant agreement.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.wmca.org.uk/



You can contact us by email:

culture@wmca.org.uk



You can find information about how we use your information on our website. This information is called our **privacy policy**.



You can also find information about how to complain on our website. This information is called our **complaints policy**.

This Easy Read booklet was produced by easy-read-online.co.uk