

Communication Consortium Grants Programme

Expression of Interest Guidance – 2021



This supplementary document is meant to give guidance and information concerning the Expression of Interest stage of the second year of the Communication Consortium Grants Programme. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this process in greater detail, please contact Rob Whitelaw, Project Officer at I CAN on RWhitelaw@ican.org.uk or 020 7843 2526.

Outline of the Grants Programme

The Communication Consortium Grants Programme supports the projects and operations of Communication Consortium members through direct financial grants. This is a three-year programme, due to start its second year. In the first year, nine Consortium members were supported through a total of £312,000 in grants.

All grant applications must ensure that the work being funded will support the following objects:

To advance the education and relief of people (in particular, children and young adults) who suffer communication difficulties associated with hearing impairment, language impairment and autism.

To ensure a grant programme which is adaptable to the needs of Consortium members, there are no restrictions on what funds must be spent on, as long as the above objects are supported. This means that operational project costs, direct beneficiary support, monitoring costs, staff salaries, and core operational costs are all valid budget items to be requested. If an organisation does submit a proposal which supports primarily core operational costs, they must be able to explicitly define how this funding would meet the above objects.

Please note that although cost types are not restricted, all grant funds must be spent by only by Communication Consortium members. Grants may not be redirected to any non-Consortium organisation for any reason.

Grant Panel Members

Four of the five grant panel members from Year One of the Communication Consortium Grant Programme remain on the panel. I CAN is currently recruiting a fifth grant panel member in partnership with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, to provide Speech and Language expertise. The four current panel members are:

1. **Ann Gross**, Communication Consortium grants panel chair. She is an I CAN Trustee who has previously served 35 years in senior positions in the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Care.
2. **Hugh Forsyth**. The chairman of the Rayners Special Educational Trust, the organisation which provided the funding for the Communication Consortium Grant Programme. Hugh was previously a Head Teacher.
3. **Gerri McAndrew**. Previously the chief executive of Buttle UK, Gerri has extensive experience in grant-making, particularly in causes supporting children across the UK.
4. **Mary Evans**. The Vice Chair of the Welcare Board of Trustees, and an executive coach and consultant. Previously, Mary has worked in five different authorities, most recently as Deputy Director of Children's Services at Wandsworth Borough Council.

Please return completed Expression of Interest form to Rob Whitelaw
RWhitelaw@ican.org.uk – Questions / Concerns: 020 7843 2526

I CAN – Registered Charity Number: 210031 – 2 Angel Gate, Hall Street, London, EC1V 2PT

Criteria for Application Evaluation

The below criteria are given to both ensure that decisions by the Grant Panel are made with transparency, and to assist Consortium members with their grant application. There are two stages to the grant application process – the Expression of Interest phase (this phase) and the full application phase (to open on 28th June 2021). Applicants who are successful at the Expression of Interest phase will be contacted directly and requested to submit a Full Application in June 2021. Applicants will also be informed if they are not successful at this stage.

Expression of Interest Criteria

1. Strength and clarity of the project description, and the problem the project aims to address, including whether the application supports the objects of the grants programme.
2. Perceived difference the project will make to children and young people.
3. Perceived value for money of the project. *Please note that this criterion is **not** based simply on dividing the grant value by the number of children who will benefit from the funding. Different projects will have different unit costs and approaches, and so comparing them directly is neither appropriate nor will this give comparable values for money. This criterion instead involves nuanced judgement by Panel members.*
4. Perspective on the spread of beneficiaries identified, with an aim to support multiple beneficiary types. (For example, children and young people with different speech, language, communication, hearing, and autism needs).
5. Perceived deliverability of proposed project.
6. Strength and clarity on how the project will support learning across the sector.

Full Application Criteria

The same criteria listed above, while also adding the following:

7. Are there clear outputs and outcomes, and methods for monitoring them?
8. The perceived sustainability of the project.

Available Grant Types

Single-Year and Multi-Year Grants

To better ensure a grant programme which meets the unique needs of Consortium members, single-year and multi-year grants may be applied for and awarded. As this is the second year of a three-year programme, multi-year grants this year will be limited to two years, as grant spending should not exceed the limit of the grant programme (August 2023). In 2022, only single-year grants may be applied for and awarded.

The minimum value of each single-year grant is £25,000, with a maximum value of £50,000.

The minimum value of each multi-year grant – per year – is £25,000, with a maximum value of £50,000.

Please note that the Grants Panel may allocate funds of any amount from £25,000 to £50,000. The Grants Panel may decide to allocate fund levels that differ from the requested amount in the application, after considering the applications received and the funds available.

Consortium members who received a grant in 2020 – whether this was through an individual or partnership application – are eligible to apply again this year. The quality of the applications received will be the primary factor in the Grant Panel's decisions, though if several applications are received of a similar quality, the Grant Panel will be guided by the principle of supporting as many Consortium members as possible throughout the programme.

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Partnership Grants

Grant applications may be made as a partnership between multiple organisations. There is no limit to the number of Consortium members who can be involved in a partnership application. However, please note that partnership applications are restricted to Consortium members only. These applications cannot include organisations who are not currently members of the Communication Consortium.

Irrespective of the number of Consortium members involved in the delivery of the grant, the total yearly value of partnership grants is the same as individual grants, above (£25,000 to £50,000).

Any Consortium member can be involved in a maximum of two grant applications: one individual application (submitted by themselves), and one partnership application. Please do not submit more than one individual or partnership application per organisation. For organisations that choose to be part of both an individual application and a partnership application, please note that the merits of these applications will be considered separately.

Specific Guidance

On Outputs and Outcomes

A discussion of both outputs and outcomes should be included in your application. This section briefly explains what is meant by outputs and outcomes, to assist in the development of your application.

An **output** is a product that results from the project activities – these are often tangible things. Outputs can be described as the first level of results from the project. An example of outputs could be the number of training sessions provided, the number of publications or webinars produced, or the number of parents or children directly supported through an intervention. Outputs included in your applications should be those that are brought about by your project activities and are directly linked to achieving your outcomes.

An **outcome** is a benefit that the project is designed to deliver. Each outcome should summarise one key change or benefit you hope to achieve. Outcomes can be described as the second level of results from the project. An example of outcomes could be an improvement in children's use of vocabulary or in comprehension, a growth in reach or engagement with your training sessions, or an increased confidence amongst practitioners in identifying or supporting communication needs. Your application should detail the outcomes which you expect your project to directly affect.

How to tell the difference between outputs and outcomes?

Outputs are the products of your project activities.

Outcomes are the benefits that result from those products.

A simple way to distinguish between an output and an outcome is to ask yourself whether the indicator in question describes the project's effectiveness. If it does, then it is an outcome. As an example, the **number** of training sessions, or the **number** of people trained is the product of your training programme: an output. This number, when considered in isolation, does not describe the training programme's effectiveness.

The difference the training has made to the knowledgebase of participants, and consequently the **improvement in their performance** is the benefit of the training: an outcome. The trained participants are more effective directly because of the training. In this example, please bear in mind that you would need to identify how exactly you are able to monitor the improvement in the participants work to quantify how you are able to measure this outcome.