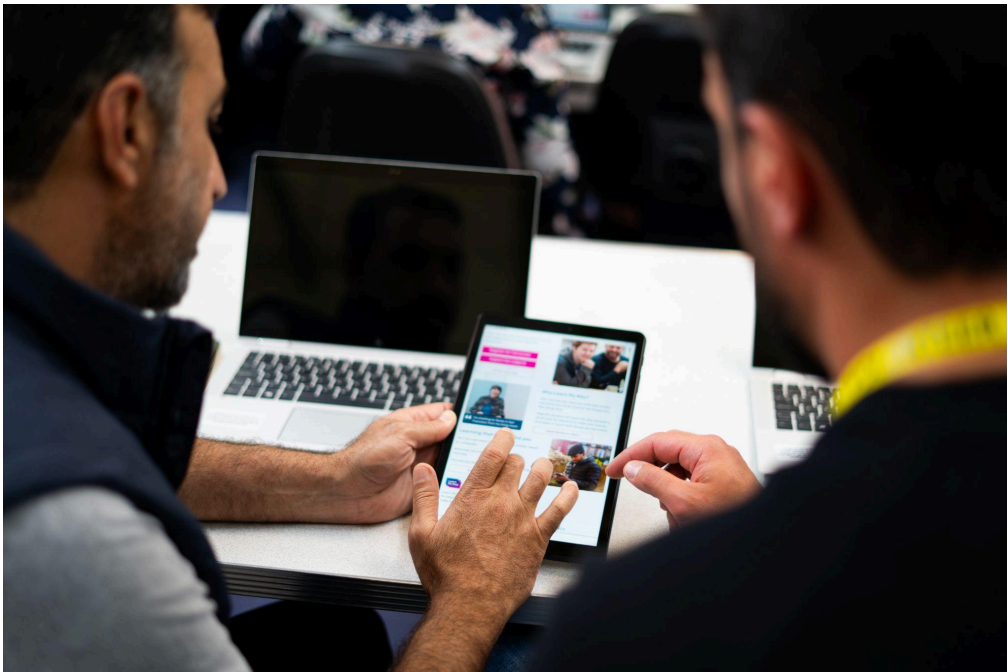




Good Things
Foundation

Fix The Digital Divide Fund – 2023 to 2024

Grant Description & Application Guidance



Activation Grants Round Two – Fix The Digital Divide – 2023 to 2024

An overview of the Fix The Digital Divide Fund

In September 2023 we launched the Fix The Digital Fund as part of our commitment to support the hubs in The National Digital Inclusion Network. To shape the fund we used insight gathered from surveys and discussions with members of the network.

The fund currently offers four different grant types that allow a progression route through the grants.

- **Digital Inclusion Activation Grant** - This is a one off £1,000 fund for new members of the National Digital Inclusion Network to establish their digital inclusion services (*Activation Grant Round Two - Fix The Digital Divide - 2023 to 2024 applications open from Tuesday 7th to Thursday 16th May 2024*).
- **The Digital Inclusion Capability Grant** - This is a £6,000 fund for members to add new or boost their current digital services (*Capability Grant Round One - Fix The Digital Divide - 2024 to 2025 applications open Monday 29th April 2024 to Thursday 6th June 2024*).
- **The Digital Inclusion Impact Grant** - This is a £6,000 fund for members to reach and support more people in their community with data and digital skills support (*Impact Grant Round One - Fix The Digital Divide - 2024 to 2025 applications open Monday 29th April 2024 to Thursday 6th June 2024*).
- **The Network Ambassador Grant** - This is a £10,000 fund for experienced members to support, represent and strengthen the Network through peer-to-peer activity (*already underway*).

We know that community intervention is the best way to reach people who are being excluded due to a lack of access or skills to use digital services and technology. When we heard that a lack of funding was a considerable barrier for Network members to support their communities with digital inclusion services, we revised our grant model to provide a clear and consistent offer for all Digital Inclusion Hubs. We feel the model will enable hubs to pick the funding opportunity

that best meets their needs, while helping us to grow and strengthen the network's delivery of digital inclusion support.

Activation Grants will allow us to support organisations new to delivering digital inclusion support, whilst our **Capability Grants** will provide an opportunity for slightly more experienced organisations to further develop their offering. The **Impact Grants** will then support organisations to reach and support some of the hardest to reach people across the UK.

Every Hub who receives one of the four grants will be encouraged, through facilitation by Good Things Foundation, to support each other and share best practice. This will be particularly useful if you're an organisation that's in receipt of an Activation Grant or a Digital Inclusion Capability Grant. More details will be provided about peer to peer support in the onboarding stages.

The Fix The Digital Divide Fund will allow Hubs to access flexible grants that meet their, and importantly their community's, needs. Together, we can fix the digital divide - for good.

This grant description and application guidance document has been recently updated for Hubs who want to apply for Activation Grant Round Two - Fix The Digital Divide - 2023 to 2024. The application process for the Digital Inclusion Capability and Digital Inclusion Impact Grants will also be open between Monday 29th April 2024 to Thursday 6th June 2024.

Activation Grants – Round Two – 2023 to 2024

Context and overview

The Activation Grant is intended for new member of the National Digital Inclusion Network who want to take their first steps with digital inclusion. It's a one off £1,000 grant to allow Hubs to begin to establish digital inclusion provision into their existing services.

This is the second round of Activation Grant funding following an open application earlier this year. Our aim is to provide 150 grants of £1,000 across the two rounds to demonstrate our commitment to helping organisations get started with digital skills provision.

We want to hear from Hubs who have joined since the start of August 2023 who have not yet started delivering Learn My Way or the National Databank, and have no significant and currently active digital skills curriculum or offer of support.

We anticipate this grant will enable newly joined members to explore the support that's available and to start to work out how to embed Learn My Way and/or the National Databank. The grant should be used in a way that any activity undertaken during the grant period can be sustained afterwards. Each Hub will be paired with one of our experienced Network Ambassadors who can provide tailored guidance on how best to set-up as a Digital Inclusion Hub.

Ideas on how the funding could be used include to purchase equipment to revitalise a tiring computer suite, to cover staff time to develop a digital skills support package, to cover volunteer costs to trial using Learn My Way or the National Databank, or maybe to advertise and promote your Hub.

Digital Inclusion Hubs that are based in one of our priority areas will be given priority for 50% of the funding that's available. These areas change frequently, so please don't let this put you off making an application. If we're oversubscribed with applications the remaining 50% will be allocated randomly to ensure fairness.

After receiving the Activation Grant we would hope that Hubs would then progress onto a Capability Grant or an Impact Grant.

Grant amount and requirements

The one off grant of £1,000 will be paid in one instalment. The requirements of the grant can be found in the table below:

Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend an introductory session to meet the other Activation Grant grantees and get clarity on any questions you may have.• Complete an Impact Survey towards the end of the grant period to help us understand how this grant has made a difference.• Take part in a new joiners Welcome Call if one hasn't already been attended after joining the network.• Participate in at least one of the regular Network Meet-Ups to learn and share ideas with other Hubs.• Engage with the support provided from a Network Ambassador, taking part in at least one call with them. .• Explore how to embed Learn My Way or issuing data from the National Databank into your existing provision.• Be willing to host a visitor or speak with a member of our research team to help us further understand the impact of the Activation Grant.• Be willing to speak with the team managing the grant to discuss your progress on an ad hoc basis as and when required.• Be willing to provide a testimonial based case study about how the grant has benefitted your organisation.

Peer to peer support is a significant part of how we support grantees across the Fix The Digital Divide Fund. Hubs who receive an Activation Grant will be provided the opportunity to access support from one of our Network Ambassadors. To create a sense of community across grantees we expect this to be something all successful applicants take advantage of. Hubs will also be encouraged to be active in the Network Facebook Group, to attend network meet-ups regularly and to make the most of the network training offer to support continued capability building of the organisation.

Timelines and deadlines

Below are the key timing for this grant opportunity. Please note, there will be further opportunities in May to apply for this grant type.

Timeline	Date:
Launch of online application	Tuesday 7th May, 12 midday
Deadline for applications	Thursday 16th May 2024, 12 midday
Communication of results	Friday 7th June 2024, by 5pm
Mandatory onboarding session	Wednesday 12th June 2024, 11am to 12 midday
Grant period start date	Monday 17th June 2024
Grant period end date	Friday 13th December 2024

Payment schedule

The £1,000 grant will be paid in one instalment.

Payment schedule	
Payment: June 2024 - £1,000	Subject to accepting your contract via the Network Members Area, providing your bank account evidence and attending the onboarding session in June 2024.

Eligibility Criteria

Our Activation Grant is aimed at members who have recently joined the National Digital Inclusion Network, or organisations who are interested in joining. To apply you need to have **become a member** between Tuesday 1st August 2023 and Friday 3rd May 2024.

For those who submit an application to join the network w/c Monday 6th May 2024 or w/c Monday 13th May 2024, if your Hub application is approved in time you may still apply for the grant.

If you're intending to apply to join the network on behalf of your organisation before submitting an application, please ensure it isn't already a member. There are two ways you can check this. Many organisations are on our map. If you can't see your organisation here, please ask around your team members to see if anyone else has previously joined your organisation up. Registering a duplicate organisation may cause your application to be unsuccessful.

Hubs who joined before Tuesday 1st August 2023 can't apply, and any who joined after but are actively using Learn My Way or issuing data through the National Databank are also unable to apply. In this instance an Impact or Capability Grant will be more suitable.

Whilst we want to hear from Hubs across the UK, applicants can't already have received funding from Good Things Foundation.

Welcome applications from organisations across the UK, specifically from organisations based in our priority areas (both current and previous) will receive priority and account for 50% of the funding available. The remaining 50% will be allocated randomly. All applications must reach a minimum score to be considered.

Applicants for a Activation Grant must also consider:

All organisations applying for this grant must pass a governance and financial due diligence check.

Contracts must be accepted online where Terms & Conditions specific to this grant will be provided. Terms and Conditions must be accepted and adhered to by Hubs and Good Things Foundation.

Application: Preparing to apply, questions & guidance

Please note - should you have any questions about the grant or how to apply, please don't hesitate to contact the team using the contact details at the end of this document. Please note that we are a small team and there's a five day turnaround time. Therefore we would advise you to log into the website as early as possible and ensure you can access the application form.

Due to the turnaround times, and the fact some issues may need to be raised with our Technology team, issues with accessing the form raised in the final week of an application form being open for applications may result in us not being able to accept your application.

As part of the application process you'll be asked to provide your registered company or charity number. This is so that we can undertake due diligence checks as part of the assessment process which will include:

Governance checks: We will undertake a series of due diligence checks to validate that the applying organisation is operating within the scope of its constitution.

Financial checks: We will undertake a series of financial background checks to detect relative financial risk of the organisation.

Accessing and completing the application form:

Your web browser settings must allow third party cookies in order for you to complete and submit your application. We recommend that you use Chrome as your browser.

Once you've opened the application form, please check that your browser settings do not 'block third party cookies'. If they do, change this setting and refresh the webpage before starting your application.

How to apply for this funding opportunity

Please note, to apply for this grant you'll be required to download and complete the 'supporting information document' available on the Activation Grants web page. Once complete, follow the link on the Activation Grants page to start your application, where you'll be prompted to upload your 'supporting information document' at the relevant point. Make sure the file name of the document is '(hub name) - (hub number)' and it is either a PDF or a Word Document.

The following are the questions you'll need to answer (either on the online application form directly or on the 'supporting information document' you'll be asked to upload) and the details you'll need to provide during the application process.

1. Your details (requested on the online application form directly)

1.1 Hub ID

1.2 Hub name

You will have to confirm that you have the authority to submit this application. You will also have to confirm you understand the Terms & Conditions and the Grant Description & Application Guidance document.

2. Please tell us how would you best describe your organisation's legal status or ownership from the categories below? (requested on the supporting information document that you upload as part of the online application form)

- Sole trader/Partnership
- Limited Company
- Limited Liability Partnership
- Independent local Government
- Community Benefit /Cooperative Society
- Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Charitable Incorporated (CIO)

- Charitable Company (Limited)
- Statutory Corporation
- Unincorporated Association

3. If you have a registration number from Companies House, The Charity Commission or as a Mutual, please add this below (requested on the supporting information document that you upload as part of the online application form)

4. Your proposal (requested on the supporting information document that you upload as part of the online application form)

Please tell us how you intend to spend the Activation Grant and the impact you hope to achieve (no more than 500 words).

5. Upload your supporting information document (Word Document or PDF)

6. Financial (requested on the online application form directly)

Have you read the grant description and understand your duties under the grant agreement? *

This includes the terms under which payments against the grant funding agreement will be made.

7. General & Legal (requested on the online application form directly)

Have you read and understood your duties for each of the following areas?

Equality and diversity

Health and Safety

GDPR

Safeguarding

Under the terms & conditions of our agreement you'll need a relevant policy, suitable staffing and processes in place. You will be asked to confirm this.

8. Declaration (requested on the online application form directly)

Is all the information you've provided complete?

You will be requested to confirm the information provided is complete.

Support

If you have any questions which cannot be answered using the information above please contact the team via [Get Support page](#).