



Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2019.

To: APSE Main Contacts in England

For information only: Contacts from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Key Issues

The Department for Education are inviting organisations in England to bid for grant funding to take on the role of testing the coordination of free holiday provision for disadvantaged children during the 2019 summer holidays.

The deadline for submissions is the 7 February 2019.

1. Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) are inviting organisations to bid for grant funding to take on the role of testing the coordination of free holiday provision (including healthy food and enrichment activities) for disadvantaged children during the 2019 summer holidays in up to 9 upper-tier local authorities.

This briefing provides an overview of the programme and what is required to bid for the funding. Full details of the criteria and application form can be found via the following link:

[Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2019](#)

2. Background

Early in 2018, the government announced a programme of work to explore how best to ensure more children from disadvantaged families benefit from enrichment activities and healthy meals during the school holidays.

The programme of work included a £2m grant fund awarded to organisations delivering free healthy food and activities to disadvantaged children in the 2018 summer holidays.

3. Holiday Activities and Food Programme

The DfE recognise that the school holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes (such as loss of a free school meal, reduced working hours etc.). There is a growing body of evidence of a holiday experience gap - with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities; more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health; and more likely to experience social isolation.

Free holiday clubs are a response to this issue and evidence suggests that they can have a positive impact on children and young people and that they work best when they provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities, for more than just breakfast or lunch, and when they involve children (and parents) in

food preparation.

The DfE state that there is huge variation in existing provision in terms of the frequency and duration of provision, and the food and activities on offer. Stakeholders in this area value this diversity in provision but have reported that the sector could benefit from support to improve the quality of provision, especially in terms of:

- partnership working with other stakeholders in order to improve targeting and referrals, and to help providers link up with food providers;
- greater coordination across local areas to help raise awareness of what provision is available and to identify any gaps or 'cold spots'; and
- minimum standards or guidance.

The aims of the grant programme are to develop a more efficient and joined-up approach to free holiday provision for disadvantaged children; and to ensure there is enough good quality free holiday provision to meet the demand from children eligible for free school meals (FSM) in the local authority during the 2019 summer holidays.

4. Funding and eligibility

Up to £9m is available in 2019-20 in the local coordination of free holiday provision grant fund and the DfE aim to fund nine local coordinator projects within this funding envelope. The level of funding provided to each project will vary according to the scale and scope of proposals.

Bids are invited from all types of organisations (for example local authorities, charities and other third sector organisations, and holiday club providers) provided they can demonstrate the ability to coordinate provision at this scale. Consortium bids will also be welcomed, as long as a lead organisation is identified (see section 1 in the application form).

Existing holiday club providers are eligible to apply but will be asked in the application form how they intend to deal with any potential conflict of interest arising from their dual role of commissioner and provider.

To be eligible for grant funding through this fund, applicants must be able to demonstrate that:

- the bid is for work delivered within England
- the whole bid is made on a not for profit basis; and
- the bid will directly impact children eligible for and claiming free school meals.

Bids can include money for reasonable capital expenditure, as long as this does not exceed 2% of the total cost of the bid. Any prospective capital expenditure needs to be fully outlined and itemised with approximations of cost in the bid. This will allow the DfE to examine the implications of the capital expenditure as part of the diligence checks. Bidders should note that capital expenditure is classed as:

- Individual assets worth over £2,500
- Grouped assets, that is assets of a similar nature that are purchased at the same time, which cost £2,500 or more overall.
- Bulk assets, for example a bulk purchase of equipment where the value of the individual item is below the set value, which cost £2,500 or more overall.

5. Management information and evaluation

In order to derive maximum learning from the funded activity, and in order to best meet the Department's policy objectives for this funding, the DfE will gather a range of management information from the grant recipients and from the clubs they fund. At the end of the funding period there will be the expectation that grant recipients will report on pupil-level attendance at each session for each club funded through this grant. The Department will require the name, date of birth, school attended and home postcode for all pupils attending each session so that the attendance data can be matched to the National Pupil Database. This should all be collected in adherence to GDPR.

Bidders should set out clearly how they intend to monitor their provision's outcomes, for example, by gathering views of parents and children at the start and end of the programme or encouraging the use of food diaries. The grant funding cannot be used by grant recipients to pay for their own evaluation, but the department will commission an independent evaluation of the programme and expect bidders to cooperate with the evaluator by providing any information the DfE commissions the evaluator to collect.

6. Assessment criteria

The DfE will evaluate all bids received against the assessment criteria detailed in the documentation provided to support the bid on the DfE website to ensure a fair process. The application form includes further detail of the scoring criteria we will use.

There is a two-stage assessment process. During stage 1, bids will be shortlisted based on the eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 31-33 of this specification, the grounds for refusal (Annex D of the application form), and the summary of the proposal (section 2 of the application form).

This will be a pass/fail assessment and in order to pass stage 1 the application:
must meet all the eligibility criteria:

- must answer no to all of the grounds for refusal listed in Annex D; and
- must not score less than 50% of the total marks available for the summary section of the application form.

Any bid which does not pass each of these three points above will be excluded from the process.

Applicants who pass the stage 1 criteria will enter stage 2, at which point the details in section 3-6 of the application form will be assessed.

In order to achieve the best possible learning, and in order to best meet the Department's policy objectives for this funding, the DfE reserves the right to select applications that offer an appropriate variety of approach, geographical spread, and levels of FSM-eligibility and rurality.

It is intended that 9 projects overall will be funded including 1 project from each of the following regions: East Midlands, East of England, London, North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, North West, West Midlands, South West and South East.

The highest-ranking bid from each region and put these into a ranked list. From this list the DfE will look to fund the 4 bids with the highest scores overall.

Priority will be given to the following criteria alongside bidders' scores in selecting bids for the remaining 5 regions:

- At least one project overall should come from each LA FSM quartile
- At least 5 bids overall should be based in LAs in the top 2 FSM quartiles (top 25% and top 50% i.e. more deprived); and
- At least one bid overall should be based in a county council LA and at least 4 overall should be based in the other LA types (London Boroughs, Unitary Authorities or Metropolitan Boroughs).

The DfE reserve the right to exclude any bid that scores less than 50% of the total mark on any section of the application form (sections 3-6).

If a region does not have any bids which meet the above criteria consideration will be given to funding multiple bids in a single region instead.

The bid round will be open from 7 December 2018 and will close at 23:59 on 7 February 2019. Key dates and deadlines for the application process are set out in the table below.

Milestones	Dates
Bid round opens	7 December 2018
Bid round closes	7 February 2019
Department for Education to contact prospective bidders for clarification or additional information if required	7 February to mid-March
Assessment of applications	7 February to mid-March
Decisions on applications announced	w/c 25 March
Grant agreements in place	w/c 15 April
Target for initial payments to successful bidders	30 May
Final payments of grants distributed to successful bidders upon completion of all aspects of work	31 October 2019

Bidders should make themselves available during the assessment period for follow-up discussions with the Department for Education where clarifications will be sought on the applications if required. From the end of March 2019, the successful bidders should make themselves available in order to be able to work quickly with the Department to finalise the grant offer letter.

Successful bidders should expect to begin preparations for their projects, including initial work with the evaluators, from April 2019.

7. Application form

Applications should be succinct and must be within the word limit provided for each section of the form.

Application should be emailed in a single PDF version of your completed application form to HAF2019.PILOT@education.gov.uk by 23:59pm on 7 February 2019.

APSE Comment

Whilst APSE welcomes the opportunity for councils to bid for this additional funding stream, and it clearly reflects the increasing role of local councils in tackling holiday hunger, it is nevertheless a short-term fix to funding what is a long-term problem for society. The attainment gaps between less well-off children upon returning to school after school holidays is well documented. Healthy food and activities add real value not just to tackling the issues of holiday hunger and isolation but also have a very positive impact on educational outcomes.

APSE would therefore like to see a more expansive role with appropriate levels of funding on a sustainable basis for this important area of work which local councils are best placed to deliver through their school meals services, and indeed often the role of council leisure services as well. Councils have demonstrated innovation and leadership in this area of work and further funding would of course assist in the on-going delivery of projects in this area.

The APSE Facilities, Catering and Building Cleaning Seminar scheduled on the 24 and 25 January 2019 at the Nottingham Belfry Hotel will provide an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and discuss challenges of issues such as holiday hunger and childhood obesity with sector experts and colleagues.

Details of the Seminar and how to book can be accessed via the following link: -

[APSE Facilities, Catering and Building Cleaning Seminar](#)

Places are selling fast so book now to secure your place at the Seminar.

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