

## Scottish Government

# Supporting birth parents whose child(ren) have been permanently removed from their care.

## Criteria and Guidelines

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## Introduction

This Scottish Government fund aims to improve support for birth parents who no longer have care of their children on a permanent basis as a result of child protection processes. Funding will be awarded to organisations that are already working directly with birth parents who are or have been subject to Child Protection proceedings.

This funding round offers funding for one year of work, however the potential for future funding will be confirmed after Scottish Government Budgets are announced in 2022. Applications for one year's funding will be welcomed in 2021. It may not always be possible to satisfy the demand for funding, and this may result in some awards being agreed for a shorter grant period or at a reduced amount.

## About the fund

This fund is focused on community-based organisations with significant experience in supporting birth parents affected by child protection proceedings and which deliver frontline services. This fund is intended to help these organisations to sustain, stabilise or increase capacity, extend or improve services and/or meet identified gaps in service provision.

Projects applying to this fund must be able to demonstrate that they will take a relational, trauma responsive service which is unconditional and reflective of the unique and complex needs birth parents may have.

The fund is divided into two strands:

### 1. Diagnostic Route

This route will offer funds of up to £50,000 and facilitate work that:

- a) enables organisations to scope the issues and barriers that affect how birth parents are supported after child protection proceedings have concluded and children have been permanently removed from their care
- b) identifies needs and gaps in the system that surrounds support for birth parents
- c) co-produces ideas with birth parents who have experience of the child protection system
- d) conducts small tests of change

### 2. Action Route

This route will offer funds of up to £100,000 and will facilitate:

- a) Upscaling, securing or implementation of service provision on a larger scale, allowing organisations to secure or sustain existing service provision.

- b) Delivery of new bespoke intensive support services to address a known and evidenced gap, or services like peer support or advocacy support or grief and trauma counselling.
- c) Implementation of a systems change projects supporting parents, with radical changes to protocol and practice. This would be a workforce development type approach.

Funding will be offered to organisations to cover staff costs and operational costs.

This fund aims to support direct work with birth parents and welcomes applications that are based on partnership approaches which demonstrate how they will take a Relational and Rights Based approach when delivering front-line services.

The fund is open to public sector organisations, charities, social enterprises, community groups and other voluntary organisations that have independent governance and an asset lock. The involvement of birth parents with lived experience of child protection proceedings in the project proposal will be a key assessment criteria, and we are particularly interested in applications which include coproduction approaches to service design, delivery and review.

## **Strategic placement of proposals within context of The Promise and Children's Services Planning Partnerships**

All applications under this stream must demonstrate how the proposal considers the conclusions of the Independent Care Review as they relate directly to the children and families the initiative will support. This will require demonstration and understanding of the need for the proposal to align with implementation of the Care Review, as outlined in Plan 21-24 and Change Programme ONE and how the proposed work will relate to the national and the local context that the organisation is operating within.

We would encourage you to make early contact with your local Children's Services Planning Partnership to ensure collaborative discussions on local needs have informed the development of any applications. This is important to ensure any application is part of a whole systems approach to local family support through the Children's Services Plan.

As part of the assessment process, we will be looking at things like partnership working, sustainability and strategic alignment, and all applications to the Action Route should confirm these discussions have taken place. Your local Children's Services Planning Strategic Lead, Third Sector Interface representative, or Corporate Parenting lead will be helpful points of contact.

## Important points

We are particularly interested in projects which are collaborative and delivered in partnership. We are interested in projects which involve both statutory and third sector organisations working closely together to meet the needs of parents and families.

All work should have the birth parent at the centre. The work should focus on them as individuals and their unique needs, and not be conditional on their status as parents (legal or otherwise). We particularly welcome applications from projects which can demonstrate long-term and open-ended support.

We would expect applications to demonstrate how they have worked with Children's Services Partnerships, IJBs or other public sector organisations, third sector partners and people with lived/living experience to identify how the proposal will address needs and gaps in the area.

We expect to see significant involvement of parents and families in the design, delivery and review of the project. We would be particularly interested in proposals which include co-producing the proposed work with people who will use the service as part of an ongoing and committed partnership.

We expect proposals to take a relational approach to service delivery, offering support which takes a rights-based approach. This means that we can only fund projects which offer unconditional support for parents and families, i.e. that the only criteria to be included in the project is that they are a birth parent who no longer has care of their child following child protection procedures.

We are particularly interested in how your project will take a gendered approach to service provision, and how it will recognise the particular and unique needs of women.

Match funding is not a requirement for this fund. However, because we are keen to see collaborative work that recognises the importance of taking a multi-agency and strategic approach to sustainable funding, we will welcome applications for work which has secured some funding from public sector organisations, for example from local authorities or ADPs.

Applicants must be currently delivering frontline services in Scotland to support people who may have multiple support needs.

What can be funded:

### Diagnostic Route

Funding of up to £50,000 for one year is available via this route. This funding aims to support organisations – particularly those working in partnership – to map, review, co-produce and test approaches to supporting parents and families. The intention is that this 'preparatory' work will allow organisations to improve their evidence base and preparedness, which will ultimately allow them to develop a future service for implementation.

## Action Route

Funding of up to £100,000 for one year can be used for service development and Improvements which may include additional staffing, co-production costs and contributions to overheads. Funding will be awarded to organisations who can clearly demonstrate that they have already completed work that identified need, appropriate approaches to supporting parents and families.

Both strands of this fund cannot support large capital projects. Please note that we expect to provide a range of grant sizes and that the amount requested should be proportionate to the turnover of your organisation and the scale of the work proposed.

Collaborative working between organisations and services will be key critical in this work. Partnership applications are encouraged, but one organisation must take the lead applicant role.

How to apply:

Applications should be made using our online application forms which are available here

<https://www.corra.scot/grants/birthparents/>

Timescales

Funds open	Closing date for applications	Funding decisions announced
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	12 Noon on 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	March 2022

## Monitoring

You will be asked to report at six months and 12 months. We may also share information (like progress reports) about your project with your local IJB or Local Authority.

## Good Practice

Corra and the Scottish Government are committed to principles of effective governance, transparency and good practice. We look for organisations to be able to show their commitment to:

- Listening to people with lived experience of the issues you work on and ensuring their views are at the heart of your approach.
- Understanding the difference that the work of your organisation makes to people's lives.
- Working with others, networking, sharing learning and avoiding duplication.
- Respecting the safety of vulnerable groups via effective safeguarding procedures.
- Being open to adapting delivery in the face of changing circumstances.

- Operating with openness and clear accountability.
- Complying with any relevant regulation or inspection.
- Implementing equal opportunities policies and valuing diversity, equity and inclusion, including in relation to recruitment.
- Being a responsible employer.

## Frequently asked questions

FAQs can be accessed here

## Further information

The team is always happy to talk, whether it's about an application, or a grant you already hold. Please get in touch by emailing [shaunagh@corra.scot](mailto:shaunagh@corra.scot) or calling us on 0131 444 4020.

If you have any questions which are not covered in the FAQs please contact us by phone or email. If you'd like more detailed information or support with your application, you can book a one-to-one funding advice session by phone or video chat.

We are not able to look at draft applications, so it is best to chat to us before you complete the form.

## About Corra Foundation

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

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