



## FAQs about Wellcome's new public engagement funding structure

### 1. How is the new scheme different from the old schemes?

Several schemes have been merged into one [Public Engagement Fund](#). This new scheme will continue to support all the same types of projects, organisations and sectors that we've supported before, but we hope that it will enable us to encourage new types of projects, organisations and collaborations.

### 2. Which of Wellcome's previous schemes have been merged into the new scheme?

The Society, People, Large Arts, Small Arts, Development, Capital, Co-production and International Engagement Awards have been merged into the new scheme and no longer exist as independent schemes. People who might previously have applied for these schemes will now be eligible to apply for the new scheme.

### 3. What will happen if I already have funding from one of the schemes that have been merged?

Nothing. Your funding will continue as normal until it ends. Your relationship with your current Wellcome project contact will not change and you should feel free to contact them as usual.

### 4. Can I check before applying if my project is suitable?

We do not advise on the scope or content of individual proposals. You'll be able to access all the information you need before you apply online. If you have further queries not answered online, you can tune into our online sessions, so keep checking our website and social channels for information about when these are happening.

### 5. When is the next deadline?

There are no deadlines for our new scheme. Just apply when you're ready and we will give you a decision as soon as possible.

### 6. How long will it take to get a funding decision when applications reopen?

You can submit your application at any time and we will usually give you a decision within ten weeks, but it can take up to 15 weeks. For applications over £100k, this initial decision will be whether we're taking your application to the next stage. This process can take anything from three months to a year. We will try to make these timelines fit the needs of your project.

### 7. How much engagement funding will be available in future?

Wellcome is committed to supporting public engagement and we won't reduce the amount of funding available for engagement activities. These changes are about making sure we maximise the impact of our funding and ensure we're responsive to the needs of the sectors that we support.

### 8. Will you still fund arts, broadcast and games projects?

Yes. We will still support all the types of projects, sectors and audiences funded previously, and we hope our funding will be more accessible to new organisations and sectors. You can find out more about our work specifically with [the arts](#), [broadcast](#) and [games](#).

### **9. Will you still fund engagement projects in low- and middle-income (LMIC) countries?**

Yes. Engagement projects in LMIC countries are eligible to apply through our [Public Engagement Fund](#).

### **10. Will you still fund capital projects?**

Yes. We still support capital projects through our [Public Engagement Fund](#). However, if your Capital project is to support redevelopment of a Science centre then you should apply through our [Inspiring Science Fund](#) run in partnership with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. These projects are not currently eligible for support through the Public Engagement Fund. The Inspiring Science Fund is one of our targeted schemes and is separate to the Public Engagement Fund.

### **11. Can I still apply for Sustaining Excellence?**

Our [Sustaining Excellence](#) scheme still exists, but applications are by invitation only.

### **12. Have grantholders had any input into these changes?**

One of our priorities during our [funding pause](#) was to ensure that we created a system that would suit our grantholders. We consulted a cross-section of our grantholder community over the summer and made sure we incorporated their feedback into the changes we've made.

### **13. Will public engagement funding within research grants be affected?**

Our support for public engagement within research grants is unaffected. Existing Wellcome researchers will still be able to request costs for public engagement activities within their research grants and apply for the [Public Engagement Funding within Research Grants](#).

### **14. What's happened to the Engaging Science department?**

We've changed our name to the Public Engagement department. The Engaging Science name is now being used by one of our sub-teams, who will focus on growing and connecting public engagement communities across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

### **15. Can I hold more than one award at the same time?**

You may apply for and hold concurrent Public Engagement Fund awards. You must however ensure that each application is for a different proposal with no overlap in activities, and that there is no overlap in funds provided, or 'double funding' of any kind. Please be aware that applications to hold concurrent awards will be assessed very carefully and must be justified and feasible.

### **16. Can I resubmit an application?**

You cannot resubmit an application. This applies to both applications submitted and rejected under previous schemes and applications submitted and rejected by the new Public Engagement Fund.