



Early Years Special Initiative Phase 2, Cohort 2

Launch Webinar

9 January 2024



Welcome

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Young People & Education

Housekeeping

Webinar is being recorded and the slides will be available on the Mercers' website with FAQs, by the end of the week.

Audience will be muted during the presentation

Questions will be taken at the end

Please share contact details in the chat if you're happy to

Overview

- **Background**

The Mercers' Company has been supporting work in the Early Years since 2019 and has so far funded 10 organisations in Phase 1 and a further 6 organisation in the first cohort of Phase 2. All grantees deliver effective programmes which improve 'school readiness' and/or an increase in children's numeracy, literacy and language skills.

- There is a real need in this area to support children with socio-economic disadvantage to positively impact on educational inequalities.

Overview

- Previous Grantees
- In Phase 1, 10 organisations were funded over 3 cohorts:

Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3
Chickenshed Theatre Company	Ark Start	National Children's Bureau
National Literacy Trust	Catch Up	Peeples
The Scouts	Centre for Literacy in Primary Education	Speech and Language UK
		Tales Toolkit

Overview

- Previous Grantees
- In the first cohort of Phase 2, the following 6 organisations were funded:



Outcomes

- Outcomes of the Special Initiative
 - An increase in children's numeracy, literacy and language skills *and/or*
 - An improvement in school readiness
- The Mercers' Company Philanthropy Impact Framework has three overall aims for its work
 - Improving people's lives
 - Strengthening organisations
 - Contributing to social change

We **will** fund

- Constituted not for profit organisations, charitable incorporated organisations (CIO), charitable companies (limited by guarantee), social enterprises and partnerships.
- Work which supports children aged 2-5 years.
- Work supporting children in London including organisations that do, or could have a national reach.
- Project or core costs.

We **won't** fund

- Applications from individuals;
- Initiatives that support under 2s and over 5s;
- Work outside of London;
- Capital Projects (bricks and mortar); and
- General appeals or financial support for project costs that have already been incurred.

What we are looking for at this stage

- An expression of interest (EOI) – a light touch form in which we ask you to provide basic information about your proposal. The EOI enables us to shortlist grantees to be invited to make a full application.
- If you are subsequently invited to make a full application, you will be asked to provide more information about your organisation's prior experience and your project (including need, beneficiaries, impact).

Top Tips for EOI completion

- Ensure you answer the question
- Use 'Plain English" – [Plain English Campaign](#)
- Proposal must address at least one of the two required Special Initiative outcomes and indicate how it supports the overall philanthropic aims of the Mercers' Company
- .Proposal must be evidence and needs based

What we offer

- **Funding**
 - A grant of up to £300,000 in total per organisation paid across four years..
- **Additional support**
 - SQW has been appointed as the learning partner for Phase 2 of the Early Years Special Initiative. Grantees will be **required** to work with them as part of a programme wide evaluation.
 - Access to (optional) capacity building support through trusted partners.
 - A cohort approach creating opportunity for collaboration.

Timeline

Grant application timeline	
Launch of EY Phase 2, Cohort 2 via webinar and access to EOI form	Tuesday 9 January 2024
Deadline to submit EOIs	Noon, Monday 5 February 2024
Decisions made and organisations contacted about outcome of EOI	Early March 2024
Application window (if invited to apply)	March – April 2024
Assessment and due diligence	May – June 2024
Decisions made and organisation informed of the outcome	Early July 2024
Projects to start	By 1 October
First payment of funding granted to successful applicants	July 2024 onwards

Question Time!



- For more information and to access expression of interest form visit our website at [Young People & Education. | Mercers](#)
- We look forward to receiving your Expressions of Interest
- Contact: grants@mercers.co.uk

