

Q&A's

Homelessness Change and Platform for Life Funds

This is a list of the most common Q&A's to help you in your application for Homeless Change and Platform for Life Funding applications.

1) Q. Is this funding being rolled out UK wide?

A. This funding covers England (outside of London) only. Funding in London is being managed by the [Greater London Authority \(GLA\)](#)

2) Q. Is Homelessness Change and Platform for Life funding specifically aimed at those projects that provide accommodation?

A. Yes, however for proposals which seek to improve facilities where healthcare, training and education can be delivered within a hostel, without upgrading the bed spaces, they would be eligible.

Funding is not available to develop standalone facilities which are not linked to accommodation.

3) Q. Does Platform for Life need to offer shared accommodation or would self-contained provision be eligible?

A. Self-contained accommodation would be eligible under Platform for Life provided that the overall scheme includes some form of shared or communal space. Bidders should demonstrate in their supporting statements how that space will be used to the benefit of the residents.

Let's end homelessness together

Homeless Link, Gateway House, Milverton Street, London SE11 4AP | 020 7840 4430
www.homeless.org.uk | Twitter: @Homelesslink | Facebook: www.facebook.com/homelesslink

4) Q. Would modular type accommodation, such as Y-Cube, be eligible under Platform for Life?

A. The expectation is that properties funded through this programme will have a life expectancy of at least 60 years for new build and at least 30 years for refurbished existing properties. However, the HCA may, by exception, consider funding new build properties with a shorter life expectancy (at least 30 years) where housing providers are working to respond flexibly to changes in local need or to bring forward land that may not be available for permanent provision, for example through the use of modular construction methods such as 'Y-Cube' style accommodation .

Where this is the case, providers should outline their design and construction proposals including the expected life of the property within their supporting statement on design.

5) Q. Do schemes need to have planning permission in place before bidding?

A. All schemes must be completed by 31st March 2017, so it is expected that schemes will already have, or have a reasonable expectation of getting, planning permission before bidding.

6) Q. Do schemes require local authority support to be eligible?

A. The HCA will only support bids that have clear local authority support. As part of bid assessment local authorities will be asked to confirm whether bids for this programme fit with local strategic priorities.

Where the bid originates with a local authority no further confirmation of support will be required.

7) Q. Can a local authority support more than one bid in their area?

A. There is no restriction on the amount of bids that can be supported within a local authority area. If there are multiple bids for schemes in an area local authorities may wish to form a view as to whether all of these are sustainable in terms revenue funding etc. There is however no requirement for local authorities to rank bids.

8) Q. What are the design and space standard requirements for schemes?

A. Further to the main outcome of the Government's review of Housing Technical Standards, which has sought to bring housing standards into nationally described standards and building regulations, it is intended there are no longer any additional mandatory prescribed design standards for housing developments outside of the potential for nationally described space standards or Building Regulation optional requirements.

Bidders will still be expected to demonstrate how the design of their proposals will help will help meet the programme aims, as well as help address the needs of male and female residents, as appropriate for the intended client group.

9) Q. Do schemes need to have revenue funding in place before bidding?

A. Schemes are expected to be sustainable and, where required, have revenue funding in place in order to receive grant. It is not a requirement that this is in place at the time of bidding, however it would be expected that there be some surety that funding will be secured so as not to put delivery of the scheme within the programme timeframes at risk.

10) Q. Will the HCA fund 100% of scheme costs?

A. No, it is expected that providers contribute towards the total scheme costs with a mixture of their own resources (including borrowing supported from the rental stream), and other sources of subsidy including free land. Providers should seek to maximise the contributions coming from other sources to ensure that the funding requested is the minimum required to bring the scheme forward.

11) Q. Would we be able to apply for funding to cover acquisition costs as well as the cost of refurbishing a property?

A. Yes, acquisition is an eligible development cost under these programmes.

11) Q. What evidence of support do you require from the Health & Well-being board?

A. It is expected that bid supporting statements should outline the details of engagement with Health and Wellbeing Boards and other relevant commissioning groups. If formal approval hasn't taken place at the point of bid submission then bidders should outline in their supporting statements details of engagement with these groups to this point. It is not necessary for the HCA to see copies of correspondence from these groups but it would be expected that they should be made available upon request if required during assessment or for future auditing purposes.

12) Can an NHS Trust bid for funding under these funds?

A. Given the statutory basis upon which NHS trusts are established, colleagues in the Social Housing Regulator have indicated that it would be difficult for them to become registered social housing providers (which is a requirement of the landlord of schemes funded under this programme), and so if they are interested in bidding they would be advised to do so in partnership with an existing Registered Provider partner.

13) Q. Could we submit a bid for the Homelessness Change element using a property which we have identified and is on a short 5 or 10 year lease, rather than us purchasing it outright?

A. No, to be eligible for funding it is expected that the grant recipient should hold a secure legal interest in the scheme site, which is either freehold ownership or a minimum 60 years lease.

14) Q. Could we use an existing HRA property and apply for the funding to refurb the property to make it suitable for use as tailored hostel accommodation?

A. Refurbishment of existing LA property into tailored hostel accommodation would be eligible under this programme.

15) Q. Can bidders submit more than one bid, and under each element of the funding?

A. There is no restriction on the amount of bids that can be submitted. These could be under either element of the funding.



What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. We work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

Let's end homelessness together

Homeless Link
Gateway House, Milverton Street
London SE11 4AP

020 7840 4430

www.homeless.org.uk

Twitter: @Homelesslink

Facebook: www.facebook.com/homelesslink

© Homeless Link 2014. All rights reserved.
Homeless Link is a charity no. 1089173 and
a company no. 04313826.