

Q&A Session Summary

Where can we find more information on Cattanach's new strategy?

You can read more about our [strategy](#) and [Theory of Change](#) on our website.

What is the Early Relationships Fund?

The Early Relationships Fund will open for expressions of interest in Spring 2024. The Fund builds on learning from a decade of our Main Grants Fund and will focus on support for early relationships in the first 1,000 days (pregnancy – 2 years).

Who do you anticipate will be successful grant recipients in the future?

To make sure applications have the greatest chance of success, there will be a call for expressions of interest first. Short-listed organisations will then be invited to apply to the fund, with support from Cattanach.

If we are currently funded via Cattanach Main Grants (or have previously held a grant), can we apply for funding?

We won't fund the same piece of work through two different funds. However, if there is a good fit between our outcomes and a different piece of work your organisation is delivering, then you would be eligible to apply.

If our recent application to Cattanach Main Grants was unsuccessful, can we still apply for the Early Relationships Fund?

If your work aligns with the outcomes we want to achieve through the Early Relationships Fund, you will be welcome to express interest.

How many years of funding will be available via the Early Relationships Fund?

Up to three years.

What will other funding opportunities look like?

Our new strategy seeks to support systems change in Scotland to improve the wellbeing of babies, young children and their families. As part of this we will be developing partnerships with organisations in pursuit of our shared outcomes. As members of IVAR's Flexible Funders community, we are committed to ensuring we apply the eight [Open and Trusting Funding commitments](#).

Learning will be central to all of our partnerships. We will be working closely with learning partners to ensure the impact of funded work is captured and communicated effectively, to support policy change and future investment.

We will also strive to make best use of our privileged position as a funding body, to amplify the voices of our partners, and the children and families they support, and to convene communities of interest around key issues and opportunities.

How will the funding be managed for such partnerships?

We are committed to open and trusting relationships with our partners, based on a shared commitment to achieve ambitious outcomes for children and families. We are currently working on programmes and partnership design.

When building relationships, will you be working with existing partners, or are you casting the net wider?

We value our current partnerships tremendously and there will be opportunities to expand on them. We are also keen to meet new organisations whose objectives align with our new strategy.

Does your new focus on data and evaluation mean us gathering data to help you shape the landscape or supporting us as service deliverers to develop and strengthen our data gathering and evaluation (or both)?

Both. At the systems level, we strive to work with other funders and partners across local and national governments, looking at how we can best share, collect, and make data accessible. We will also work with organisations on the ground to find out what information they need and what data they can meaningfully collect.

Will Cattanach be sharing data from other grantees for anonymous benchmarking so others can see what is working?

We want to contribute to the evidence base by learning from the impact of funded work on the experiences and outcomes and young children and families, abiding by GDPR and best practice standards. We also intend to commission research, particularly on the data gaps and the service experience of very young children and their families.

Do you have any indication when there will be more information about the other opportunities, especially around supporting parents and carers and children's rights, and when they may open?

Our ambition is to have all four of our new strategic pillars active this year. This could include new partnerships, events, research, and/or new funds. Please check our website for updates.

What do you mean by 'place-based' approaches?

Place-based working will be a cross-cutting approach across each of our strategic priorities. It is likely to involve deeper engagement in one of more area(s) but could also be reflected in our approach to specific funds, partnerships and programmes.

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