<u>Please see the <u>online application form</u> to apply to Round 2 of the Foundational Economy Innovation Fund</u>

<u>Foundational Economy Innovation Fund Application from: Round 2</u>

The Foundational Economy Innovation fund is providing grants for businesses and organisations working in Greater Manchester's foundational economy - including the health and social care, early education and childcare, and the local high street (retail, hospitality, culture, leisure and tourism) sectors - to trial new ideas and become more resilient. Initial grants of up to £11,000 are available.

In its first round, Greater Manchester's groundbreaking **Foundational Economy Innovation Fund** has provided £1 million in funding to 40 entrepreneurs, businesses and organisations. You can find out more about these projects in our Yearbook: https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/iwqji4b5/gmca-foundational-economy-innovation-fund-yearbook-final.pdf

We're now seeking applications for Round 2 of the Foundational Economy Innovation Fund

IMPORTANT - be sure to write your answers in a separate document, before copying and pasting into this form.

Before you complete this form please ensure you read in full the Foundational Economy Innovation Fund Guidance for Applicants (link below). This includes all the relevant information you need to apply.

Link to Foundational Economy Innovation Fund guidance for applicants - https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/mc1nlkzo/final_round-2_guidance-pack_foundational-economy-innovation-fund-1.pdf

Link to the Quick guide to the fund: https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/damdevju/final_round-2_quick-guide_foundational-economy-innovation-fund-2.pdf

This form is split into 3 sections:

- **Section 1 - About Your Project** - focuses on your project proposal and includes 3 key questions (Questions 18-20) with a maximum of 1500 characters (approximately 250 words) for each. Your application will be scored based on your responses to these questions.
- **Section 2 - Key Information** - covers your personal information, due diligence, and the terms you will need to agree to when applying for the fund.
- **Section 3 - Diversity and Monitoring** covers diversity and monitoring questions.

This application is for Testing phase funding (detailed in the application pack), up to £11,000. Successful applicants who receive Testing phase funding will be able to apply for Scale-up phase funding (up to £60,000). Details on the process and criteria for selecting projects for Scale-Up phase funding will be provided at a later date.

This form will close at 23.59 on Tuesday 13th May 2025

Email: gmcaeconomy@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Section 1 - Project details	
If you completed an Expression of interest, please provide your reference number.	*[This is simply the 3 digit number we provided you with Don't worry if you didn't submit an Expression of Interest, or have lost the number as this is just for our information. Applications will be judged*

	exclusively on the information provided in this form.]
Did you apply for funding during the First Round of the Foundational Economy Innovation Fund? (required)	[Tick box] - Yes - No
[If yes] **Was the project you are applying with the focus of the previous application?**	[Tick box] - Yes - No
Project Title (required)	[Text Field]
Which Sector(s) is your project related to? (required)	[All that apply] - Health and Social Care - Early education and childcare (0-5 years) - The Local High Street (retail, hospitality, culture, and leisure)

Project ideas should address one or more of these challenge areas (please read the guidance document for a full description of the broad challenge areas):

Broad Challenge Areas

- Localising supply chains, low carbon and Net-Zero

- More effective products and services

- Supporting the workforce

Sector-specific challenges: For Round 2, we have identified some sector-specific challenges affecting our three priority foundational economy sectors. We're keen to

see applications for projects that could address these sector-specific challenges. However, unlike the three challenge areas identified above, we are inviting only businesses working in or supporting the identified sectors to put forward project ideas to address these.

Health and Social Care

- Innovations that could support the role of technology and digital solutions in enabling care, including supporting people through the utilisation of technology

- Innovations that could keep people well in the community - reducing demand on primary, secondary and specialist care

Early Education and Childcare (0-5)

- Innovations that could increase the supply of early education places in areas where a need has been identified

- Innovations that could contribute to developing the pipeline of level 3 qualified staff in the early education and childcare workforce

The Local High Street

- Innovations that could increase recycling rates in food-based hospitality

- Innovations that could improve capacity for financial management

- Innovations that could support better utilisation of underused buildings or facilities

Which is the primary Challenge area your project aims to address? (required)	*[Please note that your project may address more than one of the identified challenge areas. Please select the primary challenge area you are looking to address. E.g.: You may be an upcycling business that is looking to support disabled people into employment. In this case your primary challenge area is supporting the workforce.]*
	
	[All that apply]
	   - Localising supply chains, low-carbon and net zero
	   - More effective products and services
	   - Supporting the workforce
	   - One of the sector-specific challenges (you can tell us later in the form)

Does your [Sector] project address one of these sector specific challenges? If so, which one? (required) (please only select one of these options if you have selected [sector] as your sector)	*[Building on what we've learned from Round 1, we've identified sector specific challenges affecting our priority sectors. We're eager to hear if these challenges align with the current operating environment and whether there's potential for businesses to work together*

through the fund —sharing expertise and ideas to tackle these particular challenges at a larger scale]

NB - You do not have to address one of these specific challenges

[Tick-Box]

[Health and Social Care]

- The role of technology and digital solutions in enabling care, including supporting people through the utilisation of technology
- Keeping people well in the community – reducing demand on primary, secondary and specialist care

[Early education and childcare (0-5 years)]

- Increasing the supply of early education places in areas where a need has been identified
- contribute to developing the pipeline of level 3 qualified staff in the early

	years and childcare workforce
	[The Local High Street] • Increased recycling in food-based hospitality • Improved capacity for financial management • Better utilisation of underused buildings or facilities – e.g. kitchen space
Which areas of Greater Manchester does your project directly benefit? (required)	[All that apply] - All - Bolton - Bury - Manchester - Oldham - Rochdale - Salford - Stockport - Tameside - Trafford Wigan
Please provide a short description of your project proposal. (required)	*Please enter at most 1300 characters* [Text Field]
What kind of innovation is your idea? (required)	*[For example, your project may be the adoption of existing technology for a new use case, such as creating a new app to fill*

	a gap in the market. Or your project may be a novel approach to the challenges.] Please enter at most 600 characters [Text Field]
What stage of development is your project in? (required)	[Tick box] - Just an idea - We have an idea, and know how to develop it, but don't know if it will work - The idea works at a small scale, but we don't know if it will scale up. - We know the idea will work scaled up, but we need support with business planning and development - Everything is ready to go, we just need funding.
If successful, you will have access to support through the programme. What are the main areas of support you think your project will need? (required)	[All that apply] - Further funding - Business planning - Advice on using new technologies - Help with understanding our potential market for the idea

	- Accessing wider business support - Innovation-specific advice - Networking with other businesses/organisations
Does your project incorporate any ideas or learning from projects you have seen in other parts of the country?	[Text box] *If yes, please provide some detail.* *Please enter at most 600 characters*
Graded Questions (33% each, 0-4) 250 words each **NB – Please keep within the word limit. Information provided beyond the word limit will not be considered as part of the scoring process.**	
Addressing the Challenge(s) – What is the specific detail of the challenge that your project would look to address, and how will your project address this problem? (33%) **(Required)**	
Innovation – Please set out how your proposal will include a new or emerging idea, method, or tool when compared to existing and established ways organisations in your chosen sector(s) typically work/operate, and if possible, why you think this would work? (33%) **(Required)**	- *[Your project could be developing or an existing idea/method or tool and improving this or introducing a completely new and disruptive approach.* - *Your idea could also be to introduce an idea/method or tool commonplace elsewhere, but new or*

	emerging in your sector(s). - *By "sectors(s)" we mean the sector you selected in question 5.]*
Implementation – Please set out how you plan to deliver the project set out in question 3, including where possible timescales, key activities and costings. Where these are unavailable, please say why and how this will be managed during the project. (33%) **(Required)**	- *[Projects have 9 months to spend Testing phase Funding (up to £11,000).* - *This application is for Testing phase funding (up to £11,000).* - *Successful applicants who receive Testing phase funding will be able to apply for Scale-up phase funding (up to £60,000).* *Details on the process and criteria for selecting projects for Scale-up phase funding will be provided at a later date, but we expect the process for Scale-up phase applications to open around 4 months after the start of the testing phase* - ***Please note: If you are reliant on a partner or body to pilot your***

	project in the testing phase, this must be agreed in principle at the time of application.]

Section 2 - Organisation details	
Name of Lead contact (required)	
Name of organisation (required)	
If applying in a partnership, please provide the names of other individuals and/or organisations, a brief overview of their role/s and an approximate breakdown of the percentage of the delivery each partner would be responsible for e.g. Lead Applicant: Day to day project delivery, management and coordination – 60% Delivery Partner 1 (name): Market Research: 20% Delivery Partner 2 (name): Business Planning: 20%	*[If you are applying in partnership the name and organisation provided in questions 21 and 22 will be considered the 'lead applicant' and will take on responsibility and liability for the project, with other involved organisations acting as 'delivery partners']*
Primary contact phone number (required)	
Primary contact email address (required)	
Organisation Address (Required)	

Company number or Charity Registration number Number (if applicable)	*[Please input as found on Companies house or the Charities Commission. If your application is successful, this information will help us to run finance and fraud checks. Do not worry if you do not have a number to input at this stage.]*
Information Commission Officer's Registration Number (if applicable) Register | ICO	
How many people work at your organisation? (required)	*[This is for statistical purposes only, if you are unsure, please provide your best guess.]* - 0 to 4 - 5 to 9 - 10 to 19 - 20 to 49 - 50 to 99 - 200 to 249 - 250 to 499 - 500 to 999 - 1000+
What would best describe your organisation? (required)	[Tick box] - Public Sector - Private Sector - Voluntary, Community, Faith or Social Enterprise
What type of organisation are you? (required)	[Tick box] - Public sector body - Limited company (limited by shares or guarantee)

	- Limited Company with Charitable Status
	- Charitable incorporated organisation
	- Co-operative
	- Community benefit society
	- Community Interest Company
	- Sole Trader
	- Unincorporated body
	- Other (please state)
Are you a Real Living Wage accredited member? (required)	*[This does not affects the outcome of your application]* [Tick box] - Yes - No
If you are not a Real Living Wage member, do you pay the real living wage?	*[This does not affect the outcome of your application. The real living wage as of October 2024 was: £12.60 per hour for people over the age of 18 outside of London and £13.85 per hour for people over the age of 18 in London.]* [Tick box] - Yes - No
Are you a good employment charter member or supporter? (required)	*[This does not affect the outcome of your application]* [Tick box] - Member - Supporter - Neither
Are you the Owner or Director of your organisation? (Required)	*You must either be the Owner or Director of your organisation, or confirm you have*

	the authority to submit this application on behalf of your organisation [Tick box] - Yes - No – but I have the authority to submit this application on behalf of my organisation - No
Please confirm you are an individual or a constituted organisation that can receive public funds (required)	*[You must select yes to this question for your application to be considered]* [Tick Box] - Yes - No
Is you project *dependent* on addition public funds or specific co-operation with public bodies, aside from funding from the Foundational Economy Innovation Fund? If so, is this secured or agreed in principle? (required)	*[Please note project proposals dependent on additional public funding or co-operation must confirm this is secured or agreed in principle at the point of application to be considered for funding.* *By "dependent" we mean that the project is reliant on this additional funding or co-operation to run and cannot do so without it]* - Yes – and this **is** secured or agreed in principle - Yes – but this **is not** currently secured - No
How much public funding have you or your organisation received since 01/03/2023? This includes grants, state aid and covers financial support from the	*[If you are unsure please provide your best estimate. We need this information to ensure we will be complying with subsidy control legislation, don't worry about*

government or public organisations **(required)**	*exceeding £305,000 as this does not necessarily make you unable to receive funding, but we need to know this information before we award funding.]* [Tick box] - £50,000 or below - Between £50,000 and £150,000 - Between £150,000 and £235,000 - Between £235,000 and £305,000 - £305,000 or over.
If you are expecting to receive any additional public funding between now and August 2025, please list how much you estimate this to be (if applicable)	*[Free text]*
Are you able to provide one of the following as part of our due diligence process? (required)	*[Tick box]* - A copy of audited accounts for the last three financial years - A statement of the turnover, profit and loss account/income statement, balance sheet/statement of financial position, and statement of cash flow for the most recent year of trading for this individual or organisation. - A statement of the cash flow forecast for the current year and a bank letter outlining the current cash and credit position - Alternative means of demonstrating financial status if any of the above are not available (e.g. forecast of

	turnover for the current year and a statement of funding provided by the owners and/or the bank, or charity accruals accounts) - I cannot provide any of the above.
Are there any questions you were unable to answer properly, if so, why?	[Text field]

I/We, apply for funding towards the cost of the above project can attest to the following:

- That you are the Owner or Director of your organisation, or that you have the authority to submit this application on behalf of your organisation
- That you are an individual or a constituted organisation that can receive public funds
- That if your project dependent on additional public funds or specific co-operation with public bodies, aside from funding from the Foundational Economy Innovation Fund, that this secured or agreed in principle
- If you have received any public sector funding in the last 3 years
- If you are able to provide, if successful, one of the following as part of our due diligence process
    1. A copy of your audited accounts for the last two years
    2. A statement of the Turnover, Profit and Loss Account/Income Statement, Balance Sheet/Statement of Financial Position, and Statement of Cash Flow for the most recent year of trading for this individual or organisation
    3. A statement of the cash flow forecast for the current year and a bank letter outlining the current cash and credit position
    4. Alternative means of demonstrating financial status if any of the above are not available (e.g. forecast of turnover for the current year and a statement of funding provided by the owners and/or the bank, or charity accruals accounts)
- That you have read and understood the guidance documentation included in the guidance document and agree to its terms.

- That you have read and understood the Privacy Notice included in the guidance document outlining how the GMCA with handle your personal information.
- You declare that the information you have given is correct and complete. You must also declare that, except as otherwise stated, you have not made an irrevocable commitment to the project which forms the basis of this application.
- You understand that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority shall not be held liable for any expense incurred during the preparation, submission, or assessment of the application.
- You understand that any offer may be publicised by means of a press release giving brief details of the project and the amount of support offered, and that if successful, the project may be selected to be used as a case study.
- I understand participation in the wraparound support activities will be mandatory, including the sharing of information (where reasonable) about their projects with GMCA and other stakeholders to maximise shared learning.

Please confirm that you have read the above and agree to these terms (required)	[Tick box] - Yes, I have read the above and agree to these terms. - No

Section 4 – Diversity and Monitoring

The information you provide in this section will:
- Not be used as part of the scoring process;
- Not be seen by those scoring the application;
- Only be used by the GMCA for statistical purposes. No information will be published which allows any individual to be identified.

Gender Identity: Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?	(select all that apply) - Woman (including trans woman) - Man (including trans man) - Non-binary - In another way - Prefer not to say
Trans status: Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?	[Tick box] - Yes - No - Prefer not to say
The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities. Does this definition apply to you?	[Tick box] - Yes - No - Prefer not to say
Please choose one of the following options that most accurately describes your ethnic group or background	[Tick box] - White – English/Welsh/Scottish - White – Irish - White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller - White – Roma - Mixed – White and Black Caribbean - Mixed – White and Black African - Mixed – White and Asian - Mixed – Other - Asian/Asian British – Indian

	- Asian/Asian British – Pakistani
	- Asian/Asian British – Bangladeshi
	- Asian/Asian British – Chinese
	- Asian/Asian British – Other
	- Black African/Caribbean/Black British – African
	- Black African/Caribbean/Black British – Caribbean
	- Black African/Caribbean/Black British – Other Black
	- Arab
	- I prefer not to say
	- Other
What was your age group at your last birthday?	[Tick box] - 16-24 - 25-34 - 35-44 - 45-54 - 55-64 - 65 and over - I prefer not to say
What is your sexual orientation?	[Tick box] - Straight or heterosexual - Gay or Lesbian - Bisexual - Other sexual orientation not listed - I prefer not to say
What is your religion or belief?	[Tick box] - Buddhist - Christian - Hindu

	- Jewish - Muslim - Sikh - No Religion or atheist - I prefer not to say - Other
What is your marital status?	[Tick box] - Single - Married or in a registered civil partnership - Other marital or civil partnership status - I prefer not to say