

vcashpoint
your idea. your time. our cash.

vcashnotes

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What is v?

v is an independent charity which was launched in May 2006 to champion youth volunteering in England. Its aim is to inspire a million more young people aged 16-25 to volunteer. To do this, v is working to increase the quality and diversity of volunteering opportunities available to young people.

What is vcashpoint?

'vcashpoint' is the funding initiative for young people who want to set up a voluntary project in their own community. By providing grants of up to £2500, vcashpoint can help young people turn their ideas for voluntary projects into reality.

Helpful definitions

Grant: the money you could potentially receive from vcashpoint.

Local community: Where you live, where you spend most of your time, a group that you identify with or a group you would like to help – these will be the participants or beneficiaries of your project.

Participants/Beneficiaries: are the people within the community you have chosen who will benefit from your project. These people do not need to be within the 16-25 age range.

Project: an activity that involves at least four volunteers aged 16-25, and benefits a community (so that's the person applying for the grant, plus three volunteers)

Volunteer: someone who does something that benefits individuals, groups or the wider community. These are the young people (16-25) that will help manage and carry out a project including the applicant – and this activity is unpaid. **Note:** Participants do not count as volunteers.

Young person/people: someone aged 16 to 25

Youth-led: A project that is designed and carried out by young people aged 16 – 25. It's ok to have support from an adult (e.g. a youth worker or a parent), but the project should be created and managed by young people.

What do you need to provide with your application?

- A completed application form
- Your first and second preferred dates and times to take part in an assessment telephone call.
- A clear and readable **copy** of ID as proof of identity and age – this could be passport, birth certificate or driving license.

Please forward your completed application to **Freepost vcashpoint** or by email to **vcashpointapplications@wearev.com**.

If applying online please forward the copy of your ID to: **Freepost vcashpoint** or by email to **vcashpointapplications@wearev.com**
(Please do not send any queries to this address. See “Need help?” for details)

This information must be submitted by the deadline of the round applied for together with your application (See “Can we fund your project?” for dates)

(If you have any problems with any of these required items please contact vcashpoint as soon as possible in advance of the deadline).

Successful applicants will be required to open a new bank account either in the project’s name or in the applicant’s name. This will help you to manage the grant more effectively, rather than mixing it up with your own finances. The account cannot have been opened more than 3 months before the round’s deadline and must be in place in advance of the project start date.
(If you have any issues opening an account please contact vcashpoint as soon as possible in advance your chosen round’s of the deadline).

How to apply

Complete an application form in one of two ways:

1. You can apply online by going to **www.vinspired.com/vcashpoint** and click on the online application form. Once completed, you can submit the form to us automatically and you will receive an email confirmation with a copy of your application attached.

Or

2. You can download an application form by going to **www.vinspired.com/vcashpoint** and return it to: **Freepost vcashpoint** or by email to **vcashpointapplications@wearev.com**
(Please do not send any queries to this address. See “Need help?” for details)

Can we fund your project? (criteria)

These criteria apply for vashpoint rounds 2, 3 and 4. Please read them carefully to see if your project idea qualifies for funding.

vashpoint will fund projects that:

1. are **NEW**
2. create **NEW** volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds
3. are **Youth-Led**
4. take place in **England**
5. **benefit** an identified community (see our description of local community)
6. Expand or develop a previously completed project – these are projects that have **been carried out once in the past** and where the applicant wants to develop the idea further and do something different for a defined short period of time involving **new** young volunteers.

These new projects could be:

Stand alone projects – these are short-term projects which will come to an end once the v funding is finished or Start up projects – these are short-term projects where the applicant will seek alternative funding to continue the project but only after the end of the v funded project.

vashpoint will not fund:

7. Organisations or Youth Workers
8. Continuation or on-going projects – these are projects that already exist and are seeking funding to extend the project
9. Part-funding of larger projects – vashpoint must be the only funding of the project
10. Projects that have been funded by vashpoint in a previous round and are not ‘development projects’.
11. Salaries.

Project start and end dates:

12. The project must start between the following dates:

Round 2: Application deadline is **1 February 2008**.
Projects for this round must start after **11 April 2008**
and before **11 July 2008**.

Round 3: Application deadline is **25 April 2008**.
Projects for this round must start after **4 July 2008** and
before **3 October 2008**.

Round 4: Application deadline is **18 July 2008**.
Projects for this round must start after **26 September**
2008 and before **26 December 2008**.

- 13.** All projects must be completed **within 6 months** from the project start date.
- 14.** All projects for all rounds must be **completed by March 2009**.
- 15.** An applicant cannot apply for more than one project in each round of **vcashpoint**.
- 16.** Applicants that have applied for funding in two separate rounds must ensure that projects timetables do not overlap – these must be distinct projects.

Funding:

vcashpoint is looking to fund small youth-led projects which are aimed at filling a gap within a given community. We also encourage young people to think creatively about how they spend their project money. As a result:

- 17.** **vcashpoint** must be the only source of funding for the initial project. However you are encouraged to seek in-kind contributions from individuals and organisations (**see www.vinspired.com for our vTop Tips On Blagging**) The project can however seek alternative sources of funding if the applicant wishes to continue the project after the end of the **v** funding
- 18.** We believe that most small youth-led short-term projects can be completed within an average value of £1,500. **However if you strongly believe that your project requires more than £1,500 funding, you will have to complete the “extra funding” section of the application form.**

Here you will have to explain why your project will cost more and why you can't access cheaper or free alternatives. You will also have to reflect this in your budget by breaking down these costs.

- 19.** The total cost of a project cannot be above £2,500.
- 20.** Projects cannot raise funds from the activity of the project – this includes charging a fee to participants, selling goods or services or raising funds for other charities, organisations or activities.
- 21.** If your project has budgeted for a celebration or recognition event for the volunteers, this budget item cannot account for more than 5% of the overall cost of your project.

The applicant must be:

- 22.** Between 16-25 years of age by the application deadline of the round applied for (see “Round deadlines and dates”)
- 23.** A volunteer on the project
- 24.** The main contact for the project
- 25.** If the young person applying for funding is a Youth Worker the project must have no link to their area of work and must be carried out outside of their working hours.

Other volunteers on the project:

- 26.** Must be 16-25 years old
- 27.** The project must have a minimum of 3 volunteers in addition to the applicant
- 28.** If the applicant requires support from a Youth Worker(s) or other professional(s) or adult(s) in applying or carrying out the project, the lead person providing the support must complete the relevant section of the application form clearly explaining their role, the reason for the support and how the project will remain youth-led.

Round deadlines and dates

Round 2, Round 3 and Round 4 of vcashpoint open on 5 December 2007 for application.

Round 2 – Application Deadline	1 February 2008
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Confirmation of the outcome of your application sent out.	15 February
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Applicants who are successful at this first stage will also receive confirmation of the date and time of their phone call.

Telephone assessments	23 February to 2 March
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Offer letter sent to successful applicants by	24 March
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Contracts and all required documentation must be returned to vcashpoint by	4 April
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First payments for round 2 will be released from	11th April
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- Projects for round 2 must start after **11 April 2008** and before **11 July 2008**.
- All projects must be completed **within 6 months** from the project start date.
- All projects for all rounds must be **completed by March 2009**.

Round 3 – Application Deadline 25 April 2008

Confirmation of the outcome of your application sent out. Applicants who are successful at this first stage will also receive confirmation of the date and time of their phone call.

Telephone assessments 14 to 25 May

Offer letter sent to successful applicants by 16 June

Contracts and all required documentation must be returned to vcashpoint by 27 June

First payments for round 3 will be released from 4 July

- Projects for round 3 must start after **4 July 2008** and before **3 October 2008**.
- All projects must be completed **within 6 months** from the project start date.
- All projects for all rounds must be **completed by March 2009**.

Round 4 – Application Deadline 18 July 2008

Confirmation of the outcome of your application sent out. Applicants who are successful at this first stage will also receive confirmation of the date and time of their phone call.

Telephone assessments 6 to 17 August

Offer letter sent to successful applicants by 8 September

Contracts and all required documentation must be returned to vcashpoint by 19 September

First payments for round 4 will be released from 26 September

- Projects for round 4 must start after **26 September 2008** and before **26 December 2008**.
- All projects must be completed **within 6 months** from the project start date.
- All projects for all rounds must be **completed by March 2009**.

Need help?

If you have a query before or while you are applying, about the application form, application process, funding criteria, deadlines and dates for each round or anything else you can contact our **help desk** in one of the following ways:

By phone: **0800 089 9000**,

By text: text **vcash** to **80010** (an advisor will call you back the same day)

By email: **vcashpointqueries@bss.org**

Help desk open Monday - Friday 8am - 8pm
Saturday 9am - 12pm

