



## **The Atsain Fund - Guidance**

### **What is Atsain?**

The Atsain Fund has been created by Anthem to address barriers to music for young people in Wales, as well as supporting a practice network which will enable knowledge sharing and foster collaboration.

Our current priority areas for funding are

- early years
- disabled young people. Projects we will look to fund may include development of new practice, exploration of instruments for disabled musicians, and the development of progression routes across the age groups.
- young people engaging in music experiencing barriers through life circumstances, geographical issues, identity, background or language. Key issues faced by young people might include lack of networks, lack of resources, economic deprivation, rural isolation, access for young people from black, asian and ethnically diverse backgrounds, access for young people in the care system, access for young people with refugee or migrant status.

### **Are we eligible for funding?**

To be eligible for funding, your organisation must:

- have one of the following governance structures and a governing document: Charity/ CIC / CIO / Partnership / Company Ltd by Guarantee
- have a UK bank account and be able to provide a set of accounts
- have relevant safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place
- be working in Wales

### **What do we NOT fund?**

- Educational institutions - Schools and Colleges
- Individual tuition fees for instrument lessons
- The purchase of instruments or equipment except as part of larger activity-based project
- Music curriculum activities to support GCSE or A-Level qualifications

- Organisations who are currently being, or have recently been, funded by the Youth Music Incubator or Recharge Funds. Please talk to us before applying if you have recently received Youth Music funding
- Work delivered outside of Wales

### **What are the criteria for funding?**

We are looking to support projects that

1. have identified gaps and challenges for young people in the ways they can access music
2. are working to break down these barriers.

Your project will:

- offer a music-related programme for children or young people facing barriers in Wales
- meet one or more of Anthem's priority areas - early years, disabled young people, young people engaging in music experiencing barriers through life circumstances, geographical issues, identity, background or language.
- include an evaluation plan to reflect on the project's outcomes
- work in partnership with other key organisations. Types of partnerships that we would particularly look to fund include inter-sector partnership working between, for example, youth organisations and music organisations.
- include a strong youth voice element as part of the project. Youth voice is when young people influence how a project is run, for example, by making decisions, shaping sessions or undertaking leadership roles. For guidance and examples of best practice in developing a strong youth voice, visit Youth Music's Share The Mic resources:  
<https://express.adobe.com/page/NxWT5kJ6Jk0ft/>

### **How long can our project last?**

Atsain will fund projects lasting between 6 and 24 months. Please note the project start date must be at least twelve weeks after the fund window deadline and within a year of receiving a grant offer from us.

### **How much can we apply for?**

Organisations will be able to apply for up to £10,000 but we expect most awards to be between £2000 and £8000. We ask organisations to show cash or in kind match funding of at least 10% in place, or to show strong evidence of partnership-working in the project.

### **How do I apply for funds?**

Applying to Atsain is a one-stage process. The steps in the application process are as follows:

1. Submit your application form, budget and supporting documents online via our grants portal by 5pm on the deadline date.  
Our application form contains a range of questions which need to be completed, but you will also be asked to submit a word document no longer than three sides of A4 which will lay out answers to the key questions.  
This information can also be submitted in video, powerpoint or audio format. You will also need to submit a budget and various supporting documents which can only be submitted in written form.
2. Your application form is assessed by our panel, and a decision is made about whether or not it is awarded funding.
3. We will send you an email to notify you of the decision. If you are unsuccessful this includes feedback on your application. If you are successful, this will outline next steps about how to accept your grant and receive your first payment.

### **How are projects assessed?**

The Atsain fund is extremely competitive. In Spring 22 we funded around a third of organisations which applied to us.

Our assessment panel will make a decision based on how great the need is for the work, and how successfully they feel the project will tackle specific barriers to music for young people.

We aim to fund as diverse a range of organisations as possible in order to address all of the different barriers to music faced by young people. We consider location, size, language, genre and target audiences in order to achieve a balanced portfolio of funded organisations.

Your project will be assessed on the following specific criteria:

- Are the organisation and project eligible?
- Does the project meet our priorities?
- Has it demonstrated that there is a need for the project?
- Are there strong and realistic outcomes?
- Does it demonstrate effective partnership working?
- Are young peoples' voices heard in your project?
- Is there a robust evaluation strategy?
- Have you thought about the legacy or sustainability of your project?
- Is there a realistic and accurate budget for the project?
- Has all the required supporting material been provided?
- Is there a robust safeguarding policy in place?

- Do you have a good organisational track record?
- Do your accounts show good financial management?

### **What can I spend the money on?**

We will fund costs that are a direct result of the project, such as staff costs, freelancer fees, venue hire, equipment purchase, marketing costs etc.

We will also make a contribution towards the overheads that help to support the proposed project such as HR, office rent and utilities, IT systems, governance, insurance, and audit fees, up to a maximum of 10% of total project costs.

We will not fund activities that have taken place before you have received confirmation of the grant award, costs incurred in making your application, significant capital costs, loans or interest payments, VAT costs that can be recovered or activities that promote party political or religious beliefs.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Can I apply for more than one project?**

Organisations can apply for one grant per year.

#### **Can I apply for a second grant for the same project?**

Organisations reapplying for another grant will need to have a conversation with us to demonstrate a new need for the work, or how the new work will build on the outcomes already achieved.

#### **Can I apply again if I have been unsuccessful?**

Yes. If your application is unsuccessful, we will provide you with feedback and may recommend that you make adjustments to your project in order to improve its chance of success at a future funding round.

#### **Am I expected to meet the word count limits?**

No, but please include all the relevant information our panel will need to make a fully informed decision.

#### **What happens if I am successful?**

You will be supported throughout your grant by our Programme Manager.

We will first issue a funding agreement and an initial grant requirement form for you to complete.

We may request that certain requirements are fulfilled before we can make a final decision about your grant. You may need to provide further documentation or make changes to your application form.

A payment schedule for your project will be issued, that will depend on the length of your project and the amount of the grant. Larger and longer projects may receive payments in instalments, while smaller and shorter projects will receive 75% of their grant upfront, with the remaining 25% being paid on receipt of the final project report.

All applicants will be encouraged to join the Atsain Practice Network that will run alongside the fund allowing funded projects to share learning, build relationships amongst network members and across the wider sector, and build best practice in Wales.

### **What are the deadlines and timescales?**

This funding round closes at **5pm on Monday 27 March 2023**.

The panel meets in late April and applicants should receive notification of whether they have been successful by mid May 2023.

### **Who can I contact to ask a question?**

For further advice and support, please contact Rebecca Rickard, Programme Manager at **[rebecca.rickard@anthem.wales](mailto:rebecca.rickard@anthem.wales)**