Techies in Residence

A programme for Digital Social Innovation

Guidelines for applicants

Techies in Residence will open for applications on Tuesday 28th July and will close for applications on Thursday 10th September 2020 at 1pm.

Techies in Residence is a programme aimed at supporting voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to explore digital innovation solutions to challenges they are trying to address. The programme adopts a design thinking approach and brings together social challenges from VCSEs with digital technology professionals to design, develop and test innovative digital products and services that have the potential for deep social impact. By the end of the programme, each participating organisation will have a working prototype of their desired digital product, platform or application ready for further development and testing.

Please note that support provided through Techies in Residence does not take the form of a grant to the participating VCSE organisations. Instead the programme will directly pay for the time input of the expert 'techies' for each project as well as providing a comprehensive framework of mentoring, networking and learning opportunities alongside this. However, all organisations who compete the Techies in Residence programme will subsequently have an opportunity to apply for the Foundation's Seed Fund for a grant to pursue the development, testing and launch of their digital product or platform.

Due to COVID19 restrictions it is likely the programme will need to be delivered mostly on a digital basis for this cycle, however this will be kept under review in light of the changing public health situation.

The programme application process is broken down into 3 phases:

1. Online Design Hops

New to the programme this year is our partnership with CAST – Centre For Acceleration of Social Technology who will organise online 'Design Hop' events. [Sign up for the Design Hops here](#).

In the design hops, participants will explore the challenges you are working on before deciding whether to submit an application. Participation in the design hops is encouraged as they will support applicants in developing their idea as well as provide further information on the Techies in Residence programme.

Please note it is NOT a requirement to apply to TiR after your have signed up to a Design Hop. This is a digital support programme open to all VCSE organisations exploring their digital needs.

2. The Idea Refinement and Selection Process

There are three stages to this process which will result in six VCSE organisations being awarded a place on the Techies in Residence programme.

Stage one – VCSE organisations are invited to submit a written application outlining the social challenge they want to address and their initial thoughts about how digital technology could help.

Stage two – Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to an application refinement workshop, where they will be supported to receive feedback, refine and resubmit their application.

Stage three – Successful applicants of stage one will be invited to 'Pitch' their idea for a place on the Programme. Pitch training will be available on 7th October 2020 and the 'Pitch event' will take place on the 15th October 2020.

3. The Techies in Residence (TiR) Programme

Following securing a place on the programme, the Foundation will match the selected VCSE and challenge with an appropriate 'techie'. The TiR programme will take place between December 2020 and May 2021. The programme has three phases: Design, Develop and Test.

Design: When matched, the techies and VCSEs will participate in a 2 day 'Residential' on Wed 9th and Thurs 10th December 2020, where they will explore possible tech solutions to the identified challenge and centre the final idea on the experience and insight of the user.

Develop: The 12 week 'residency' will see the paired groups work closely together to produce a working prototype of their product, platform or service. During this period the different

projects will receive expert mentoring, guidance and advice on project design, development and testing of their idea. The 12 week 'residency' will take place from January to March 2021

Test: A showcasing event will provide an opportunity for TiR participants to showcase their achievements to one another. Participants of TiR 2020/21 will also have the opportunity to pitch for a Seed Fund award which will allow them to undertake further development and scaling up of their product, platform or service.

CAST will also provide specialist support and training to VCSE and techies at key points during the delivery of TiR.

Who can apply?

Eligibility Requirements

Any VCSE (voluntary, community or social enterprise) organisation registered or operating in Northern Ireland can apply so long as they meet the following criteria:

- The applicant organisation is a duly constituted charity, community group or social enterprise - organisational forms we accept include Company Limited by Guarantee, Community Interest Company and Unincorporated Club/Association. If your organisation is not one of these please check with us before applying.
- The Community Foundation will not provide support to organisations or activities which promote causes that are contrary to our purposes. For further information check our website here
- The application must set out a project that fits within the parameters of the Techies in Residence programme i.e.
  - A social or community challenge with potential for direct benefit for people
  - A clear rationale for how digital software / product development could help - please note the Techies in Residence programme is unable to support projects that primarily require help with the development of digital content/media or digital marketing
- Have an active management committee, with no two related cheque signatories
- Have a governing document, i.e. Constitution in the name of the applicant organisation
- Have up to date annual accounts
- Have complied with the conditions of previous grants including submission of monitoring returns.

For organisations who wish to advance to Seed Fund grant stage, at that point they must also provide evidence that they have:

- A current bank account in the name of your organisation and in credit
- Relevant policies in place relevant to the project (Equality, safeguarding etc)

Programme Conditions

Techies in Residence is not an application for funding. The successful V awarded a place on the Techies in Residence programme. This progra…… has been generously funded by Comic Relief and all payments for services and support will be paid directly to third party organisations via the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

There is no cost for the VCSE organisation to participate in the Techies in Residence programme.

A successful award of a place in the programme will be subject to the following conditions and organisations applying for place must agree:

- To complete regular 'milestone' reports to the Foundation during the 'Develop' phase and a final End of Project report no later than 2 weeks following completion of the 12 week 'residency'.
- To actively participate in the TiR programme evaluation being commissioned by the Foundation
- That public information about their participation in the programme may be shared in open datasets. No personally identifying information will be published.
- To acknowledge the support of the Community Foundation and the funding by Comic Relief in any public communications about their participation in the TiR programme
- To comply with the 'open innovation' approach of the TiR programme (see https://communityfoundationni.org/programmes/techies-in-residence/) and freely share the software developed through the programme to other social purpose organisations who may benefit (with due acknowledgement to the VCSE and Techie developers)
- That failure to comply with any of the above conditions will impact on future applications for funding and in serious cases may result in grant monies being reclaimed.

An application for a Seed Fund grant will be available in the 'Test' phase of TiR. This grant will only be available to participants in the Techies in Residence programme who have fully participated in the programme. Full guidelines for the Seed Fund will be made available to participants during the TiR programme.

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This programme is funded by Comic Relief.

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