

GambleAware

System Stabilisation Fund Round 3

Guidance document

Guidance

1. Overview

The System Stabilisation Fund (SSF) aims to provide funding to contribute towards the stabilisation of the gambling harm prevention, support, and treatment system during the transition period from a voluntary levy to a statutory levy. This Fund uses regulatory settlement funding¹ as agreed in conjunction with the Gambling Commission. This funding is not intended to replace the voluntary donations funding model.

There have been two System Stabilisation Fund rounds so far:

- Round 1 opened on 7 August 2023 and closed on 21 August 2023. Funding for Round 1 was for the 2023/24 financial year up until 31 March 2024 as a short-term measure.
- Round 2 opened on 6 November 2023 and closed on 4 December 2023. Funding for Round 2 was for the 2024/2025 financial year up until 31 March 2025.

System Stabilisation Fund Round 3 (SSF3) will open on **7 November 2024 and will close at 5pm, 18 December 2024**. Late admissions will not be accepted.

2. Round 3

System Stabilisation Fund round 3 will provide funding for the 6-month period from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025. The decisions for this first phase of funding will be made in February 2025.

We are requesting at this point that applicants submit 12-month budgets (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2025). This is to ensure streamlined decision making should there be further delays to the statutory levy and a longer period of stabilisation is required.

The overall budget for SSF3 is £2,000,000 for the 6-month phase. We are therefore recommending a maximum application amount of **£300,000** per organisation. This will enable GambleAware to provide measured financial support to a wider range of organisations in the sector and ensure that the regulatory settlement funds are used in an equitable way. If you want to apply for more than £300,000, please contact the team. We will base this recommendation on supplementary information provided about your financial position, including reserves position and policy.

Only one application should be submitted per organisation. You can include details of different workstreams or projects within the application.

3. How to apply

Please read over all the information provided before starting your application.

There are three parts of the funding application:

¹ [Gambling Commission \(2023\) Destinations of regulatory settlements to be applied for socially responsible purposes](#)

- The **application form**.
- The **budget sheet**. Please complete the tab with details of your request across the 6 month and the 12-month period to assist with our phased decision-making approach.
- The **due diligence form**. Please complete with details of your organisation and attach the financial documents required. For most organisations this will be your last financial year accounts, and management accounts for the previous 3-month period. If you have completed GambleAware's due diligence process in the last 12 months, you do not need to complete the due diligence form (unless anything has changed). You do still need to send us the supporting financial documents.

Please complete the above documents and send them to: commissioning@gambleaware.org.

Please note, we must receive all documents before the deadline on 18th December. Once your application has been received, you will receive an acknowledgement from GambleAware within 2 working days. If you do not receive an acknowledgement email, please assume your application has not been received.

4. Terms and conditions

Awards from the fund will be made by Grant Agreement and organisations will be asked to confirm they agree to the terms and conditions when completing their application form. GambleAware's System Stabilisation Fund Template Grant Agreement can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions specifically relating to the fund agreement, please contact procurement@gambleaware.org no later than 18th December 2024.

5. Timeline

The key dates are set out below in **Table 1**:

Activity	Date
Application process opens	7 November 2024
Application process closes	18 December 2024
Panel meeting and decisions	w/c 6 February 2025
Agreements sent	w/c 7 March 2025
Initial funding period	1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025
Potential second funding period	1 October 2025 – 31 st March 2026

6. Eligibility

The key purpose of the funding is to help stabilise organisations within the gambling harm sector where those organisations have experienced funding disruption because of the levy announcement.

The change to the commissioning landscape also means that some organisations may be interested in shifting their funding away from gambling industry funding. In October 2023 the Government published the consultation on the structure, distribution and governance of the statutory levy on gambling operators.

Within this, the consultation proposed there should be clear and ringfenced investment for the NHS to commission treatment services, including those delivered by the third sector.

In relation to industry funding, it should be noted that:

- Organisations will not be precluded from this fund due to applying for, or accepting, industry funding. However, the System Stabilisation Fund must not be used for projects that are part-funded by direct industry donations.
- Where organisations are in receipt of direct funding from the industry, GambleAware will need to be fully assured that there is clear separation through robust governance practices ensuring differentiation between GambleAware-funded projects and industry-funded projects.
- Organisational overheads will also need to be differentiated. For example, if GambleAware contributes to 25% of an organisation’s project delivery cost, the contribution to overheads should be in line with this level.

The table below summarises the full fund eligibility criteria and conditions. Please tick each box to confirm your application meets all the criteria and your organisation accepts the funding conditions.

Table 2: System Stabilisation Fund eligibility criteria and conditions

	Criteria
1	There has been disruption to the organisation’s funding because of the levy announcement.
2	Optional clause. There is an intention to actively shift away from industry funding because of the new commissioning structures.
3	The request is for activities encompassing gambling harms prevention, support, treatment and recovery. Research activities are not eligible for this fund.
4	The impact of the activity and any direct delivery of services is in England, Scotland, or Wales.
5	The funding must be used in line with the five outcomes set out in GambleAware’s strategic framework (see below).
6	Funding requested should be for ongoing activities as this is a stabilising fund. We will not invest in new projects or significant expansion of current projects.
7	The funding cannot be used on any project that includes an element of charging / payment for services.
8	The funding can’t be used on any projects which are co-funded by the gambling industry.

High level GambleAware’s 5 outcomes



01
Increase the awareness and understanding of the risks of gambling and its harm (across the general population).



02
Prevent gambling harm amongst individuals and communities at greater risk of experiencing it.



03
Prevent the escalation of gambling harm.



04
 Ensure individuals and communities receive **a broad range of appropriate services**.



05
Reduce the legacy of gambling harm.

Our vision

A society where people are safe from gambling harm.



7. Decision-making

The fund will be competitive, and GambleAware will not be able to fund all projects which meet the eligibility criteria. We will follow the process described below to ensure decision making is diligent and robust.

Step 1: GambleAware will carry out an initial review of each application against the criteria listed above to check eligibility. Applications which are eligible will then proceed to phase 2 of the review process.

Step 2: Applications will be reviewed in line with the matrix (**Table 3**) below. Some questions will be weighted.

Question	Score 0-5	Key sections of application form
<p>To what extent has the applicant demonstrated disruption to their funding?</p> <p>If appropriate: is there a clear rationale for shifting a project from industry funding?</p>	<p>Score Description</p> <p>0 Did not provide a substantive response in relation to the criterion</p> <p>1 Provided a response which partially met the criterion</p> <p>2 Provided an adequate response to the criterion,</p> <p>3 Provided a very good response to the criterion,</p> <p>4 Provided a comprehensive response to the criterion</p>	Question 2.1
<p>Is there clear evidence of need for the project or activities. Is there evidence of effectiveness?</p>	(as above)	Questions 3.3 & 3.4

Is the delivery model and approach clear and compelling?	(as above)	Question 3.5
Is it clear what outcomes/ changes will be achieved as a result of this funding? Do they have a clear plan about how they will measure these changes?	(as above)	Question 3.6
Is it clear that the proposal demonstrates good value for money and cost effectiveness?	(as above)	Question 3.7 and budget sheet
Is there a clear sustainability plan for the work?	(as above)	Question 3.8

Step 3: Final decisions will be made by a funding panel made up from GambleAware staff, independent experts, trustees and people with lived experience of Gambling Harms. They will discuss each application to determine which should receive funding based on all information provided.

8. Appeals

GambleAware will not consider appeals against the rejections of a funding application. If you are unhappy about the decision making or application process you can submit a complaint in line with GambleAware's [complaints policy](#).

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GambleAware is the independent charity (Charity No. England & Wales 1093910, Scotland SC049433) and strategic commissioner of gambling harm education, prevention and treatment across Great Britain to keep people safe from gambling harms.

For further information about the content of the report please contact info@gambleaware.org.