



## ACTIVE COLLEGES – AUTUMN 2014 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Sport England recognises that Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges play a significant role in maintaining and growing their students' interest in sport and physical activity, as well as providing opportunities for them to try out new sports. Colleges are key in ensuring that young people make a smooth transition from school to employment or university, including students' participation in sport. Research has shown that too many young people drop out of sport at age 16 or 18, and the aim of **Active Colleges** is to engage more young people in regular sporting activity.

To further expand the reach of Active Colleges investment, we are looking for projects from FE and Sixth Form Colleges that have not yet benefited from this investment. Specifically, we are looking for projects that will provide students in these colleges with more opportunities to participate in regular sporting activity that is relevant to their needs and preferences.

### What are we looking for?

We are seeking applicants who can design and develop projects that are tailored to the sporting needs and motivations of the students they are targeting. Therefore there is plenty of scope for what a potential project could look like. However, all projects will need to address the following;

1. **Student Need:** projects should be based on the needs, motivations and behaviours of students in relation to sport and physical activity. Colleges will be expected to consult with a range of students and to take into account the findings from the recent Sport England youth insight. Collectively, this information should enable colleges to understand more about their student population and the differing needs and preferences. Based on this insight, projects should provide opportunities that engage new students and retain more students in regular sport and physical activity.
2. **The right offer for more students:** projects should provide a programme of activities that appeal to the range of motivations of students to take part in sport and that are accessible to the variety of students enrolled at a college. This might include providing opportunities based on health, fitness and other interests. It could also include new or different formats of traditional sports commonly played in college, as well as new and emerging sports and activities. In addition, it is about considering whether your sporting offer is attractive and accessible for demographic groups that are traditionally underrepresented in terms of sport participation at college. These groups include female, BME and disabled learners, 19+ students and non-sports course students.

Based on points 1 and 2 above, we anticipate projects will deliver one or all of the following:

- **An increased range and frequency of opportunities** - Providing new and additional activities or building on existing provision to increase the opportunities for more students to access sport.
- **Improved quality of opportunities** - Ensuring that all activities (new and existing) are delivered in a format, and within an environment, that is considered as good by the students they are intended for.
- **Something different** - Projects offering students a menu of opportunities, providing something different from the more traditional college sport offer.

It is acknowledged that there may be other beneficiaries of your project, such as college staff and members of the local community. However, at least 80% of participants must be students in FE colleges.

### **Who can apply?**

Whilst all bona fide and legitimate organisations with a written constitution (such as a Memorandum and Articles of Association) or statutory powers can apply for this funding, we are specifically seeking applications that include at least one FE college and make the case that funding will raise sport participation of students enrolled at the FE college(s) named in the application.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for this round of funding, Colleges must:

1. Not currently be in receipt of, or benefiting from, any Active Colleges investment (College Sport Maker Funding or FE Activation Funding).
2. Have a desire to develop a project that will lead to an increase in regular sports participation of college students that is evidenced by:
  - Being able to carry out a consultation process with a range of students by February 2015, to form the basis of what the project will look like; and
  - Being willing and able to deliver a project from September 2015 to August 2017.
3. Have college wide buy in to the project that is evidenced by:
  - Support and sign off by the College Principal;
  - Allocating capacity to develop an application;

- Providing capacity to deliver and coordinate a project should the application be successful (through new and/or existing posts); and
  - Be able to meet the partnership funding requirements.
4. Have support from their local County Sports Partnership (CSP) that will include assisting the college throughout the application process and the initial stages of project delivery.

### How much can applicants apply for?

Applicants can apply for grants between £30,000 and £120,000 over a two year period (September 2015 – August 2017), based on the following:

- a. Applications that benefit students from one FE college will be eligible to apply for between £30,000 and £75,000,
- b. Applications involving students from a group of FE colleges will be eligible to apply for between £50,000 and £120,000.

As with all Sport England funded programmes an element of partnership funding will be required for all projects. We are looking specifically for colleges to be able to fund a minimum of 20% of the total costs of your project. This can be a cash contribution or a mix of cash (minimum 10%) and in-kind funding.

This partnership funding contribution must be 'additional', i.e. above and beyond any existing provision, and must be directly related to interventions and activity within the delivery plan for this project.

### What we will fund

Through the learning from previous and current Sport England investment into the college sector, the following areas have emerged as key to creating new and attractive opportunities for more students to take part in regular sporting activity:

1. **Widening the sporting offer:** through for example; intramural activity, social/informal opportunities, hybrid versions of sports, multi-sport opportunities, new clubs, teams or activities and inclusive opportunities;
2. **Utilising spare capacity within the community sport system:** improving community club links, developing community clubs to cater for student players where there is excess demand (extra coaches/development of student sections), enhancing links with local sports partners;
3. **Workforce:** the development of a workforce to drive, promote and deliver student sport and increase student participation, for example; volunteers, sports coaches, officials or activator/co-coordinator type roles;

4. **Facilities and access:** the hire of additional facilities or purchase of equipment which will improve access to sporting provision and improve utilisation of external facilities where spare capacity exists.
5. **Promotion and marketing of opportunities:** developing a variety of regular communication methods to ensure sporting activities are brought to the attention of students throughout the year. This could include a range of formats such as print, social media and online as well as linking with curriculum or tutor groups.
6. **Inter-College Competition:** regular competition at a participation level for new teams or individuals that does not duplicate competition opportunities currently offered by AoC Sport.

### What we cannot fund

Facility and capital investment will not be funded through this funding round. Sport England has several funding opportunities for facility development; therefore if this is an area of interest please explore these other funds –via <http://www.sportengland.org/funding/>.

In addition, the following items or activities cannot be funded through this funding round;

- Projects that do not directly focus on increasing FE student participation
- Retrospective funding
- Purchasing or leasing of vehicles
- Sports activities relating to academic course content of sports related courses
- One off events or week long activities that do not lead to regular sporting activities
- Research activity
- Programmes/activities which have ceased to be funded from other sources
- On-going initiatives (unless expanding in size)
- General running costs
- Management costs, unless additional hours or backfill
- Items that only benefit an individual
- Activities promoting religious beliefs
- Foreign trips
- Competition opportunities that replicate AoC Sport programmes
- Work with schools – unless this is an 14+ open community activity on a school site OR school link transition work.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and may be added to.

## Timescales and Process

The application process for this investment is twofold. The first stage is a basis expression of interest to the fund. Sport England will review all the expressions of interest that are received by the deadline and select projects that they wish to solicit based on the applicants ability to meet the funding criteria. If selected, the second phase will be a more detailed application form.

The timescales are outlined below:

- Deadline for expressions of interest: **5pm on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014**
- Sport England to inform colleges of decisions: **7<sup>th</sup> December 2014**
- Applications solicited: **14<sup>th</sup> December 2014**
- College visits: **January 2015**
- Submission of applications: **27<sup>th</sup> February 2015**
- Funding decisions made by: **Early April 2015**
- Projects to start delivering: **September 2015**

## Next Steps

Colleges that meet the eligibility criteria and would like to consider applying for this funding, should discuss their application and ideas for a project with their local County Sports Partnership (CSP) and AoC Sport partnerships officer. If a college decides they would like to apply they will need to submit an expressions of interest form to Sport England by the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014. This expression of interest must be supported and signed by the College Principal and local CSP.

An expression of interest form and a set of FAQs regarding the fund is available on <http://www.sportengland.org/our-work/children-and-young-people/further-education/>