

# Critical Social Policy

*A Journal of Theory and Practice in Social Welfare*

## **The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund**

### **GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

From the moment of inception, *Critical Social Policy* has and continues to be a political project grounded in international socialist, feminist, anti-racist and radical perspectives, relating to the experiences of people struggling within or against the state within national and global contexts. **The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund** seeks to support activist projects that align with the aims and mission of *Critical Social Policy*. **The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund** recognizes the struggles of resistance, emancipation, and political transformation for social justice in order to counteract unequal power relations of exclusion, subordination and domination, due to oppressive constructions of identity, representation and position. In a small, but hopefully effective way, **The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund** will enable activist, advocate, practitioner, and users of service groups in their actions to promote people before profit approaches to social policy, welfare and the state. *Critical Social Policy* has an international reach in regards to its audience and published papers and in line with this **The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund** welcomes and, will give consideration to, international applications (from activists outside the UK) concerning international/global issues.

### **What will The CSP Solidarity fund support?**

The CSP Solidarity fund **will** support:

- **Hard to fund** activist projects. Due to their radical, subversive, revolutionary mission and aims, some projects find it hard to find funding (information about other sources of funding applied for is required), or have no other obvious sources of funding. The fund is for projects that find it difficult to access funding elsewhere.
- **Pump priming** activism. This is where a small amount of funding is provided to help lay the foundation for an activity so it can develop capacity and sustainability.
- **Overheads:** It can be difficult for small activist organizations/groups to get started, and applications for overheads will be considered. Information about how the organization aims and actions that align with and have relevance to the aims and mission of *Critical Social Policy* will be required.
- **Activist training and development projects:** Activities which provide training for social justice action that increases confidence, skills and capacity building through consciousness raising.
- **One off activist events:** The event must be in accord with the aims of CSP.
- **Dissemination of activism:** The production and distribution of materials pertaining to resistance, emancipation, social justice and political transformation.

# Critical Social Policy

## *A Journal of Theory and Practice in Social Welfare*

- **Other activist projects:** If your application does not easily fit into any of the above categories it may still be supported if it is in accord with the aims of CSP. You are encouraged to contact CSP to discuss eligibility prior to submitting your application.

### **If the project includes a research element**

- The CSP Solidarity fund will consider projects that have a research element, but only where the primary activity is action in accord with the mission of the *Critical Social Policy*. It will be necessary for the project to be specific about how the activity seeks to tackle social injustice.

The **CSP Solidarity fund** will **not** consider the following types of applications:

- Applications which could be funded by more traditional sources of funding.
- Applications to fund overheads, teaching buy-outs or equivalent from academics.
- Applications from large or well-funded groups
- Applications from individuals

### **How much funding is available?**

- The maximum value of any individual award is UK £5,000 (or its equivalent) and because of the constraints of the CSP Solidarity fund it is likely that projects will only be offered partial funding.

### **Deadlines for Applications**

There is one deadline per year for applications: 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Please send applications to *Critical Social Policy* Coordinator, Surya Nayak via email: [s.nayak@salford.ac.uk](mailto:s.nayak@salford.ac.uk)**

# Critical Social Policy

## *A Journal of Theory and Practice in Social Welfare*

**What is the decision-making process?** The decision-making process has a number of stages:

- All applications are reviewed by the Editorial Collective of *Critical Social Policy* which meets 4 times per year (October, January, April and June).
- If your application is shortlisted, your nominated referees may be contacted.
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants are notified.
- Some applications are asked to provide more information or to modify their applications. If you are asked to do this it indicates that *The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund* reviewers are interested in your proposal but it is **not** a guarantee that you will be funded if you supply the additional information.

**If you are successful...**

- If you are successful you will receive two forms. You are required to acknowledge funding from *The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund* on all material associated with your project. The first form is the Acceptance Form where you must provide a short summary of your proposal for *The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund*, details to enable the transfer of funds and the date by which we can expect your Final Report.
- The second form is a template for your Final Report which must include an account of expenditure with receipts. We would expect to receive copies of relevant publications, or other materials, photographs or whatever is appropriate for your particular project.

**If you are unsuccessful...** You will be notified, however feedback on unsuccessful applications will not be given. Given the volume of applications we receive the main reason for rejection is often that we simply don't have enough funds to support all the projects we would like to.

**Why do applications fail?**

Applications fail for a number of reasons:

- They fall outside the funding guidelines outlined above
- They are poorly written: Here are some typical issues:

Poor description of the project proposal: For example, failure to describe in sufficient depth and detail the what, why, when and how of the project idea, aims and outcomes.

Failure to outline the ripple effect or longer-term impact of the project: For example, pushing boundaries, sustainability, and transferability.

# Critical Social Policy

## *A Journal of Theory and Practice in Social Welfare*

Internal inconsistency and lack of coherence: For example, the application contains contradictory information or the line of logic lacks coherence.

### **Can you apply again if you are unsuccessful?**

- You can apply once more, but given that you have been rejected once you will need to make some refinements to your proposal. Look again at our guidelines and try to focus your proposal more carefully in line with them. If you are unsuccessful, a second time, we recommend that you seek funding elsewhere or undertake a major rethink of your proposal.

### **Can you get more than one award?**

- ***The Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund*** expects the initial award will have had some continuing impact so that the project does not need more funding. This applies particularly to training, development and pump priming activities. Interventionist projects and one-off support activities should not need on-going funding. In exceptional situations, projects can apply again if you think that you can make a convincing case for another round of funding.

### **Can I submit more than one application?**

- We will only accept ONE application from the activist project /group/ organization per round.

**Please submit applications to *Critical Social Policy* Coordinator, Surya Nayak via email: [s.nayak@salford.ac.uk](mailto:s.nayak@salford.ac.uk)**