



How to get involved in Food Power

Food Power is a four-year programme led by Sustain and Church Action on Poverty and funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Food Power aims to strengthen local communities' ability to reduce food poverty through solutions developed by them with the support of their peers from other communities across the UK. We aim to transform the way that people in food poverty can access support and create long-term sustainable lives free from hunger. Critical to this will be engaging local people and local alliances, giving voice to those experiencing food poverty, influencing practice on the ground and leveraging in additional resources.

The programme aims to strengthen and develop new and existing food poverty alliances from areas across the UK. By 'food poverty alliance' we mean a partnership or consortium of organisations (ideally drawn from across the public, faith, voluntary and community sectors) which commit to working together to tackle food poverty in a given geographical area. We believe that by working together, coordinating efforts and sharing good ideas and practice we can make a significant difference to the lives of those in food poverty. There are a number of ways to get involved in the programme.

1. Sign up to the e-newsletter

[Sign up](#) to receive our monthly newsletter for information about on-going work, events, conferences and opportunities to apply for financial support.

2. Register your alliance and access peer support

Food poverty alliances will engage with the programme at different levels, but all are invited to [register](#) with the network. The intention is to strengthen existing alliances and provide support to newly emerging alliances or those which would value being part of a peer learning network. Each of these alliances will:

- Be part of a local peer learning network
- Either provide or be able to request alliance-to-alliance peer mentoring
- Have the opportunity to apply for financial support to help develop their alliance and its activities.

3. Join peer learning networks, events and conferences

The primary aim of this programme is to share learning and experience between alliances. All alliances will be invited to engage in peer learning networks, events and conferences run by the programme. Relevant information will be posted [here](#) and via communications with the network.

4. Deliver peer mentoring

We are building a team of peer mentors from alliances from across the UK. Each of these peer mentors will facilitate a local peer learning network of food poverty alliances and deliver one-to-one peer mentoring to individual alliances. Peer mentors are specific named employees from eight food poverty alliances. We have already appointed peer mentors in some areas and we aim to foster peer mentors to cover remaining areas in due course. If you would like to apply to deliver peer mentoring please indicate this when you [register](#) your alliance or [contact](#) the team.



5. Apply for financial support to help develop your alliance

Registered alliances can apply for a one-off financial support of up to £10,000 to progress the development of their alliance or food poverty action plan at the point it is of most use during the lifetime of the programme. Up to £1,000 of the support is specifically allocated to cover the travel and accommodation costs for project learning visits. Applications for the first round closed in November 2017. Further rounds will be open in **autumn 2018 and 2019**.

6. Engage experts by experience

We will work with three pilot projects to trial approaches engaging experts by experience in setting the strategy of a food poverty alliance and developing food poverty action plans. Each pilot will receive up to £5,000 to support this work. We will recruit the three alliances to work on these pilots between by **December 2017 and February 2018**. The pilots will run in the period from **April 2018 – May 2019** and will receive support from programme staff and a strong process to evaluate what works well. Following the pilot period, financial support of £60,000 in total will be available during **2019 and 2020** to support a further twelve alliances to involve experts by experience. [Read more](#) about this work stream and how to apply to become a pilot project.

7. Get involved in thematic work

Over the four years of the programme there will be three thematic areas of focus running for approximately one year each. We hope to generate a 'buzz' around the themes and to facilitate the sharing of best practice among alliances. In autumn 2017, the team consulted with the network to decide on the first theme for 2018, which will be launched early in the next year. Future themes will be set according to the priorities emerging from alliances and peer learning networks. Alliances can apply for up to £5,000 to support work on the theme. The first round of financial support will be open from **January - February 2018**, with more information posted [here](#). Activity by alliances will need to take place from **April 2018 – May 2019**.

8. Deliver evaluation pilots

Working with our evaluation partner at Cardiff University will review and produce evaluation tools which can be of use widely across the sector to demonstrate the impact of food poverty projects. We will also carry out more in-depth evaluations of the programme's impact in a selection of areas and then share this learning with the rest of the network. Alliances will work closely with the Food Power team and Cardiff University to either develop and trial evaluation tools or to host a deep dive evaluation on the impact of the programme. Financial support will be available to support this work as well.

9. Access match funding

We encourage alliances to seek out match funding for all of our financial support offers. This will be included in the application process for financial support. We recognise that variable amounts of match-funding will be available in different areas and/or for different activities. We will also encourage applications which include in-kind match support. This will be explained further at the application stage.

December 2017