CAF Venturesome’s Development Fund is an impact-focused social investment fund that provides affordable and flexible social investment to build the capacity of social organisations working both in the UK and internationally, as long as they are based in the UK.

CAF Venturesome is the social investment team at Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). We’re dedicated to helping social enterprises, charities and community land trusts secure the affordable, flexible loans and other social investment they need to sustain and grow their social impact. Since 2002 we have made over 600 social investments, from all our funds, totalling more than £50m.

WHAT WE OFFER

We are very flexible. Our standard products are below but if you can’t see what you want, pick up the phone and talk to us.

- Unsecured loans
- Secured loans
- Standby facilities
- Part loan/part standby
- Charity Bonds
- Social Impact Bonds
- Quasi Equity

£25,000 to £400,000 plus, repayable up to six years at approximately 6.5%.

This social investment is for:

- cashflow support to help transition to a sustainable social business model
- investing in growth plans
- investing in a social enterprise/trading arm to generate unrestricted income
- investing in a Social Impact Bond

It is important to note that social investment is not a grant or donation; it is a loan to be repaid with interest. Please see our online loan calculator to find out how much your loan could cost. www.cafonline.org/charities/borrowing/social-investment/development-fund

The Development Fund has been making social investments since 2009. Figures as at April 2019

186 SOCIAL INVESTMENTS MADE

70% OF SOCIAL INVESTMENTS ARE £100,000 OR LESS

15% OF UK-BASED ORGANISATIONS WORK OVERSEAS

70% MEETING OR EXCEEDING TARGETS

Registered charity number 268369
HOW WE WORK WITH YOU

Applying for a social investment loan can seem a daunting task, but the CAF Venturesome team works in partnership with you to make it easy. Here’s our simple five step process:

1 Discuss
Give us a call or send us an email. We’ll then arrange a time to talk through your needs to make sure social investment is the right option for your organisation.

2 Review
We then review your organisation’s finances and projections to understand how we can support you.

3 Visit
We’ll meet with you and your trustees to get to know your organisation and understand your social impact.

4 Apply
We write the application for you.

5 Decision
Our investment committee will review your application and we’ll let you know our decision right away. We will then help you to draw down the funds as soon as possible.

VENTURESOME IN ACTION

Local Food Links is a social enterprise in Dorset which provides freshly prepared, healthy meals to local schools, supporting local businesses and employing more than 40 local people.

We’ve provided them with three unsecured loans, from our Development Fund, over the past eight years which have allowed them to expand their kitchens, take on 15 new school contracts and move into Somerset and Devon.

Local Food Links have already repaid two of the three CAF Venturesome loans and have grown their impact on local communities. They now provide 50 schools with around 3,700 lunches every day which has had a positive effect on their pupils – improved eating skills, increased attention levels and reduced absences.

If you’re a social organisation based in the UK, even with international operations, we’d love to hear from you.

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