

Guidelines

We make grants for **running costs** to small registered charities in England and Wales to help sustain their existing work.

Eligibility Criteria

We offer grants only for core funding to **registered charities** with a total annual expenditure of **less than £40,000** who are undertaking work that focuses on one of our priority groups:

- Elderly people
- Children and young people
- People with physical impairments, learning difficulties or mental health challenges
- Social welfare - people trying to overcome life-limiting problems of a social, rather than medical, origin (such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse, offending)
- Education and learning (with a particular interest in people who are educationally disadvantaged, whether adults or children)

We **only** make grants for core funding. We define core funding as the costs associated with regular activities or services that have been ongoing for **at least a year**. We do **not** fund new work or projects.

We only offer grants to registered charities that have been formally established for a **minimum of 3 years**. Newly registered charities may apply but the organisation must have appointed a management committee and adopted a governing document at least 3 years ago.

Grant Making Policy

We will fund running costs for **up to three years**. Grants are for a **maximum of £3,000** per year. Most of our grants are for more than one year because we like to fund ongoing needs. We prioritise:

- Charities that are delivering services in areas of high deprivation
- Work that is unattractive to the general public or unpopular with other funders
- Services that help to improve the lives of marginalised, disadvantaged or isolated people
- Applicants that can demonstrate an effective use of volunteers
- Applicants that can demonstrate (where feasible) an element of self-sustainability by charging subscriptions/fees to service users

Exclusions

- Charities with a total annual expenditure of more than £40,000
- Charities that are not registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. You must have your own charity number or be [excepted](#) from registration. Industrial Provident Societies and Community Interest Companies are not eligible to apply
- Work that is not based in England or Wales
- Charities with unrestricted reserves that equate to more than 12 months expenditure
- Branches of national charities without their own charity number
- New organisations - you must have been operating as a fully constituted organisation for at least 3 years, even though you may have registered as a charity more recently
- Services or activities that have not been ongoing for at least a year
- Uniformed groups unless they serve a local area of high deprivation and/or can demonstrate that members are experiencing significant disadvantage
- One-off events
- Capital expenditure – including equipment, buildings, renovations, furnishings, minibuses.
- Holidays and holiday centres
- Core funding of charities that benefit the wider community such as general advice services and community centres unless a significant element of their work focuses on one or more of our priority groups
- Community safety initiatives
- Charities with outstanding loans/mortgages
- Charities raising money to give to another organisation, such as schools, hospitals or other voluntary groups.
- Individuals - including charities raising funds to purchase equipment for or make grants to individuals

Eligibility Check

After reading the guidelines, applicants are strongly advised to complete the basic eligibility checklist below before completing an application form. We will only fund charities that can demonstrate they meet our eligibility criteria. **If you answer 'No' to any of the questions then you will not be eligible to receive a grant from us and any application submitted will be rejected.**

	Yes	No
Is your organisation registered as a charity in England or Wales with the Charity Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the charity's <u>total</u> annual expenditure budget for <u>the next 12 months</u> less than £40,000?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the charity been formally established for at least 3 years (ie, was the governing document adopted at least 3 years ago)? <i>NB – this will be verified with the Charity Commission's register of charities.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the work you are asking us to fund clearly fall within one of our priority areas outlined on page 1 of these guidelines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is our grant required towards running costs for existing work that has been happening for at least one year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>