

## FAQ

### **When can we apply?**

Applications can be made at any time throughout the year. Please check our deadline dates on the Grant Application Deadlines page, although earlier submission is encouraged.

### **How often can we apply?**

Charities can apply once in every calendar year.

### **Who can apply?**

Registered charities that can demonstrate specific charitable work and public benefit in Birmingham, the 4 boroughs of the Black Country (Walsall, Sandwell, Wolverhampton & Dudley), Worcestershire and Herefordshire providing support in any of the following 6 thematic areas:

- Adults in need;
- Young people in need;
- Hospices;
- Mental health support;
- Poverty; and
- Environment and heritage.

### **Is there more guidance on the themes?**

Each theme is broken down into various eligible sub-categories to provide additional guidance.

Adults in need; a) People with special needs or disabilities; b) Dementia support; c) Other serious health conditions; d) Other activities particularly for the disadvantaged and d) Music and arts for those with special needs or disabilities.

Young people in need; a) Young people with special needs or disabilities; b) Young people with serious health conditions; c) Youth organisations; d) Outdoor activity Centres for young people; e) Work experience for the young; f) Other activities particularly for the disadvantaged and g) Music and arts for those with special needs or disabilities.

Hospices for end of life care and terminal illness.

Mental health support; including a) Bereavement support; and b) Emotional mental health support and wellbeing including counselling and befriending.

Poverty; includes a) Day Centres for the homeless; b) Supported housing to prevent homelessness; c) Foodbanks, food redistribution and baby banks; and d) Poverty more widely including welfare benefits advice.

Environment and heritage includes: a) Environmental conservation; and b) Heritage.

## FAQ

### **Can national charities working in our area apply?**

Applications are now only considered from national charities that have a registered or headquarters address in our beneficial area. However, there is one exception to this guidance: national charities that have received at least one grant from us in the last two calendar years may still submit an application for trustees' consideration.

### **What can we apply for?**

Charities can apply for core funding or a project/capital application.

### **What documents are required with the application form?**

A supporting letter (generally no longer than 2 pages) giving details of your charity and your application, accounts no older than 18 months\* prior to your application are attached to the email, and confirmation of your bank details (see below for acceptable documents). All documents are preferred in PDF format.

*\*For example, accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 can only be used for applications submitted before 30 September 2026.*

### **Which documents are suitable to confirm your bank details?**

A scanned copy of either a (i) Bank Giro Credit (paying in slip) or (ii) a cheque book or (iii) a bank statement. A transaction listing is not suitable.

### **Why do we have to provide a document to prove our bank details?**

To ensure that we use accurate and current bank details for internet payments.

### **How much can we apply for?**

Most grants made are generally between £2,000 and £5,000. Larger grants may be considered for our regular beneficiaries (see below) and capital projects.

### **If our application is successful, when will we know?**

We advise our successful applicants within 2 weeks of the trustees meeting.

### **If our application is rejected, can we reapply?**

Charities can reapply in the following calendar year.

### **Do you have an appeals process for rejected applications?**

We do not have an appeals process and the trustees decision is final.

### **Can I get feedback on why our application is refused?**

The trustees do not give reasons why an application is declined.

## FAQ

### **Do you need to provide a grant impact report?**

We expect you to briefly report back on the impact of a prior year grant either on the next application form or by providing an impact report before your next application.

### **How does a charity become a regular beneficiary?**

To qualify as a regular beneficiary, a charity must have 4 years of consecutive grant awards. These charities are usually visited (on-site or by video call, as appropriate) on a biennial basis. Remote due diligence reports are also undertaken in certain situations.

### **Who cannot apply:**

- National Charities not meeting the specific criteria mentioned above in the “Can national charities working in our area apply?”
- Charities that cannot demonstrate specific work in our beneficial area.
- Individuals and non-registered charities.
- Charities that are primarily grant paying.
- Community Interest Companies.
- Social Enterprise and other not-for-profit organisations.
- New charities that have not been fully operational for at least 3 years.
- Charities that are not involved in one of the key themes that we support.
- Core costs funding to community hubs, community centres or village halls.
- Core costs funding for the arts.
- NHS charities.
- Emergency service organisations.
- Animal welfare charities.
- Charities funding high levels of scientific or medical research.
- Charities focused on restricted ethnicity or religious groups.

### **Who is unlikely to have a successful application:**

- Charities with large investment portfolios and/or excessive reserves.
- Charities with large defined-benefit pension fund deficits.
- National charities not meeting the specific criteria noted above.
- Charities that do not submit recent accounts with their application, as above.
- Charities with high levels of scientific and/or medical research.
- Charities with relatively high costs of raising funds or overheads.
- Charities with governance issues (such as late or incorrect accounts).