

Apprenticeships & Vocational Learning Programme

The Trustees believe that every young person should have the opportunity to meet his or her full potential. Too many young people remain outside of education, employment or training (NEET) and although they may have the same aspirations as their peers, many are deprived of opportunity. The reasons for this are numerous and often mutually reinforcing; for example parental unemployment, family breakdown, drug and alcohol abuse, discrimination and poor physical and mental health. Colyer-Fergusson's latest grant programmes seek to support projects which tackle young people's 'poverty of opportunity' in innovative and effective ways.

The Trust is interested to hear from organisations that can unlock opportunities for apprenticeships and vocational learning for young people with poverty of opportunity. Organisations should be able to deliver these opportunities for young people in one or more of the following categories:

- educational underachievers aged 14-16 and not expecting to achieve five GCSEs (or equivalent) grades A-C
- unemployed - aged 16-25 and not in education, training or employment
- at risk of offending – aged 14-25
- in or leaving care
- other groups of disengaged, disaffected and vulnerable young people

Projects may focus on meeting their needs in a range of ways, for example (but not exclusively):

- providing alternative and flexible vocational learning opportunities for young people who do not benefit from a conventional classroom experience
- supporting employers to take on disadvantaged young people as apprentices, or as part of their workforce
- voluntary organisations and employers working in partnership to offer work placements to young people who would normally face barriers to such opportunities.

How to apply

Applicants must submit an expression of interest form online explaining how funds could be used to increase opportunities for apprenticeships and vocational learning. The form is designed to be easy to complete and succinct, capturing essential details about the organisation and the project. Applicants may wish to visit the form and take a note of the questions so that they can prepare their longer answers in Word and copy and paste them into their submission.

All expressions of interest will be acknowledged and applicants submitting projects of interest will be contacted and invited to supply more information and present their proposal. Please contact us if you have any problems with the online form or if you do not receive an acknowledgement email.

Eligibility criteria

- This programme is open to registered charities, CICs, social enterprises, parish churches and other properly constituted not-for-profit organisations
- Organisations must be based in Kent and the proposed project must benefit young people with poverty of opportunity living in the County
- Organisations must operate with sound governance and robust financial management
- Organisations must offer value for money
- The proposed project must be well-planned with defined, measurable outcomes
- Funding **will not be allocated to an existing service** unless it unlocks new opportunities or extends the service in an innovative way.

Scale of grants

The minimum grant offered will be £20,000 and the maximum £75,000, but the majority of grants are likely to be between £25,000 and £50,000.

Decisions

Unfortunately we receive many more applications than we are able to fund and therefore many good proposals, even though they fit our priorities, have to be turned down. The trustees and their staff regret that they are not able to enter into correspondence about the reasons for their decisions.

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