

Investing in Communities

Making small grants to community organisations and local charities in Kent to strengthen their resilience and build their capacity to deliver sustainable, face-to-face services to people at the margins of society.

Colyer-Fergusson Trust believes that small, locally focussed organisations are often best placed to deliver flexible, responsive and direct support to the most vulnerable people in society. It also recognises that, at a time of rising demand for their services smaller organisations have been particularly hard hit by funding cuts and the move to contracts and tender-based funding. In response, the Trust is offering a grants' programme targeted at smaller, community-led organisations with two complementary strands:

Stabilising: providing grants for basic running/core costs, not specifically connected to delivering projects. By investing in organisations as a whole, the Trust will help local groups concentrate on delivering vital services.

Extending: providing one-off grants for the costs associated with developing and strengthening local, grassroots organisations. For example, helping local groups investigate and test new ways of operating; diversify their services, introduce efficiencies or establish partnerships.

The Trust is interested to hear from smaller charities in Kent working at grass roots and local community level across a wide range of activities, where a relatively small amount of money can make a big difference; delivering essential services to the most vulnerable people in the community.

Eligibility criteria

- Organisations must be a registered charity, CIC, social enterprise or other properly constituted not-for-profit organisation¹ with a management committee with at least three unrelated members
- Organisations must be based in Kent and benefit local communities
- Gross income in the last financial year must be less than £500,000
- Free reserves in the last financial year must be less than twelve months of expenditure
- Grants can be paid only into a UK bank account in the organisation's name.

Level of funding available

Organisations can apply for a grant of between £1,000 and £7,500 per annum, for a maximum of three years or a one-off grant of up to £15,000. In certain circumstances recurring grants may be extended to five years. Organisations that are not able to provide at least two years of published financial records will be restricted to a maximum grant of £3,000 per annum.

¹ You will be expected to demonstrate your not-for-profit tax status in your application.

STABILISING GRANTS

The Trust aims to help 'stabilise' grassroots groups and community organisations by supporting their core costs; giving them the stability to focus on delivering services and building sustainability. Grants of up to £7,500 per annum will be awarded for up to three years (£22,500 maximum) with the option of applying for a further two years of funding in the final year of the grant.

Grants are available for core costs including, but not exclusive to:

- staffing;
- marketing;
- recruitment;
- volunteer costs;
- travel and subsistence;
- utilities and telecommunications;
- rent and building costs;
- insurance.

Please note - newly established organisations, unable provide at least two years of published financial records, can only apply for grants of up to £3,000 per annum (£9,000 maximum award).

EXTENDING GRANTS

The Trust aims to help organisations extend their reach and impact by offering grants to help them explore new ways of working. One-off grants of up to £15,000 are available for costs including, but not exclusive to:

- consultancy support;
- investigating mergers,
- partnerships and shared services;
- Investigation and development of new contracts, income diversification or enterprise;
- Staff training and development;
- Working towards relevant quality standards
- Capital items where there is evidence of ultimate cost savings
- Implementing new IT systems, including monitoring systems

Please note – Extending grants **are only available** to organisations that can provide at least two years of published financial records.

Extra priority

Extra priority will be given to groups that:

- work in a particularly disadvantaged or deprived area;
- have limited access to other sources of income;
- clearly demonstrate the benefit of their activities to local people;
- demonstrate a commitment to service user involvement;
- illustrate how they aim to deliver social outcomes;
- can demonstrate partnership working;
- can show that a grant would lever-in additional funds

Exclusions

We regret that we are not able to fund:

- Individuals - unless they are made as part of our 'Hardship Awards' Programme
- National charities receiving widespread support
- Statutory bodies and anything deemed to be the responsibility of the State
- Nurseries, schools and colleges
- Hospitals and health authorities
- Medical care, medical equipment or medical research
- Academic research, scholarships or bursaries
- Animal charities
- The promotion of religion
- Museums and galleries or the restoration or conservation of buildings
- Annual or one-off events and festivals
- Work outside of Kent
- Endowment appeals
- Work that has already taken place i.e. retrospective funding
- Round-robin, widely circulated appeals

How to Apply

All applications **must be submitted** using the Trust's online application form. Applications by email will not be accepted. There are no deadlines and decisions are made on a rolling basis. Organisations are advised to download a copy of the application questions and prepare their answers in advance in Word, as they will be able to cut and paste these into the online form.

Please note: organisations **cannot apply** to both the 'Stabilising' and 'Extending' funds in the same year.

Decisions

We aim to inform applicants as soon as possible about the outcome of their application. Smaller applications of up to £15,000 in total will be processed via the Trust's 'fast track' decision process – usually taking less than two months. All other applications can take four months or longer to process.

Unfortunately, the Trust receives many more applications than it can fund and therefore many good proposals, 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.

If you have a question that is not answered in this guidance, please email Steve Boucher sboucher@cfct.org.uk