

## Investing in Families

*Making grants to charitable organisations working to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families in Kent, thereby improving people's life chances and promoting social cohesion.*

Colyer-Fergusson Trust believes that 'families' in the most inclusive sense of the word, are the yarn that creates the fabric of society. Individual families can be delicate and vulnerable at times; but woven together into communities they are remarkably strong and resilient. But too many are struggling at the sharp end of socio-economic problems; facing persistent and chronic poverty and overwhelmed by desperate circumstances. Poverty restricts their choices and too many are having to make impossible decisions, such as whether to heat their homes or pay their rent.

This programme will make grants to organisations working to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families, thereby improving people's life chances and promoting social cohesion. It will support charitable organisations working to meet the needs of families with a wide range of problems, including social isolation; poverty and debt; drug and alcohol abuse; mental health issues; domestic abuse; caring for a sick or disabled family member and the short and long-term impacts of bereavement.

The Trust is particularly keen to hear from organisations that take a 'whole family' approach and those that work to tackle the underlying root causes of the problems that families face. Priority will be given to organisations that consult and involve their client group in the delivery of their services, as all too often families say that they feel completely incidental to the decisions that are made about them.

### Eligibility criteria

- Organisations must be a registered charity, CIC, social enterprise or other properly constituted not-for-profit organisation<sup>1</sup> with a management committee with at least three unrelated members
- Organisations must be working to benefit people living in Kent
- Funding to cover the **core costs of an existing service** should ideally unlock new opportunities or extend the service in some way;
- Organisations **must** be able to provide at least two years of published financial accounts
- Grants can be paid only into a UK bank account in the organisation's name.

**Please note** - the total grant cannot be greater than 50% of your most recent annual turnover/income.

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

### Living Wage

The Trust is a Living Wage Funder and it encourages grant applicants to cost all salaries included in their application at the living wage rate. The current living wage rate can be found on the Living Wage website: [www.livingwage.org.uk](http://www.livingwage.org.uk)

### Level of funding available

Organisations can apply for either:

- a one-off grant of up to £30,000

**OR**

- a grant of between £5,000 and £20,000 per annum, for a maximum of three years.

In certain circumstances we may make larger grants. Should you wish to apply for a larger sum, please write to our Chief Executive, Jacqueline Rae [jrae@cfct.org.uk](mailto:jrae@cfct.org.uk) **before** submitting your application.

### Exclusions

We regret that ordinarily we are not able to fund:

- Individuals - unless they are made as part of our 'Hardship Awards' Programme
- National charities that do not have a physical base in Kent
- Statutory bodies and anything deemed to be the responsibility of the State
- State run 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
- The restoration/conservation of buildings, unless for the practical benefit of the community
- 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.

### 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 define the need they are addressing
- can demonstrate collaborative working and/or offer matched funding opportunities.

### How to Apply

All applications **must be submitted** using the Trust's online application form. Applicants are advised to download a copy of the application form questions and prepare their answers in advance in Word and cut and paste these into the online form.

Please note that you will be asked to provide:

- your published accounts for the two most recent financial years
- a budget in Excel or as a Word table, showing specifically what the grant would pay for
- your organisation's safe-guarding policy.
- If you are not a registered charity, evidence of your not-for-profit tax status *e.g. a copy of your constitution and asset lock if applicable*

### When to Apply

If you apply by the end of October 2024 you will receive a grant decision by early March 2025

*Please note: we receive a large number of applications on the closing date and this can create technical issues. Please apply in advance of the closing date to avoid disappointment.*

### Decisions

We aim to inform applicants as soon as possible about the outcome of their application following the Trustees' meeting. Unfortunately, the Trust receives many more applications than it can fund and therefore many good proposals, will 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 [grantadmin@cfct.org.uk](mailto:grantadmin@cfct.org.uk)