



BENEFACT
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Community Impact Grants

Guidance for Applicants

2026

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COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

Programme aim

Community Impact Grants aims to enable Christian organisations to have a positive and transformative impact on lives and communities in the UK and Ireland, with a focus on the following two objectives:

1. Addressing social challenges facing communities
2. Growing and sustaining Christian congregations and communities

*Please note: This programme no longer provides capital funding for building projects. Please apply to Building Grants if you are undertaking building works.

Who can apply

Community Impact Grants is open to applications from Christian charities, churches and representative bodies (e.g. dioceses and denominational bodies) based in the UK and Ireland, with the following restrictions:

- Applicant organisations must be registered as charities in the UK or Ireland (unless the organisation applying has 'excepted' status, which is restricted to specific churches - see [Excepted charities - GOV.UK](#)).
- Churches, cathedrals and other Christian denominational bodies should belong to one of the National Ecumenical Instruments (Churches Together in England (CTE), Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), Churches Together in Wales (Cytun) or the Irish Council of Churches), or in the case of local or independent churches, to appropriate local ecumenical / 'churches together' type groups.
- Individual schools, other educational institutions and hospices are not eligible to apply to the Community Impact Programme. However, they can apply for funding for chapels under our Building Grants Programme.

What we can fund

The Community Impact Grants programme supports activities, projects and programmes that deliver impact furthering one or both of our Community Impact objectives as set out below. We can provide revenue (non-capital) funding for up to three years. Only activity taking place in the UK or Ireland is eligible for funding.

Programme objectives

Objective 1: Addressing social challenges facing communities

Your project will result in positive changes in the lives of people and communities affected by social challenges. This will be through the delivery of specific support or services to help and empower individuals, families and communities to address these issues, ultimately leading to a variety of improved life and community outcomes (e.g. quality of life, independence, safety, resilience, community cohesion and wellbeing).

Examples of key social issues to be addressed include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Poverty and cost of living
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Crime, violence and exploitation
- Housing and homelessness
- Isolation and loneliness
- Social exclusion
- Employment and skills
- Addiction and substance misuse

Objective 2: Growing and sustaining Christian congregations and communities

Christian congregations and communities will be expanded, strengthened or more resilient. This will be as a result of one or more of the following outcomes delivered by your project:

- Congregations have grown and/or diversified.
- People have new opportunities to explore and develop their faith.
- New churches or worshipping communities are established and thriving.
- More people are volunteering time and have the skills to support the operation of their church or cathedral.
- More people from the wider community are using church or cathedral buildings, contributing to their sustainability.

These outcomes may be delivered through a range of activities, such as faith development, youth work, church planting, volunteer training or staff posts that promote sustainability – e.g. a volunteer coordinator or bookings administrator.



Eligible costs

There are two types of costs we can support under this programme: **direct project costs** and **core costs**.

Direct project costs

These are non-capital costs (e.g. staff posts, training costs or volunteer expenses) which are directly related to the delivery of your activity, project or programme. These can be new or existing costs, provided they will deliver clear impact and not the continuation of business as usual. These are the costs you should include in the costs section of our application form.

Core costs

We understand that most applicants have other costs (often referred to as 'core costs' or 'overheads') that support the day-to-day running of their organisation and the delivery of specific projects and programmes. Examples of core costs include:

- Staff salaries for management, administration, fundraising, finance and human resources
- Fees, staff or other costs relating to audit, compliance and governance
- IT systems and communication tools
- Rent, utilities and general off expenses

If your application is successful, we will automatically add 10% to your total grant amount in support of your core costs, but you should not include these costs in our application form.

Please see the next page for more detailed guidance on direct project costs.

Please see below for more detailed guidance on direct project costs:

Cost type	Eligible	Ineligible
Staff posts	Salary and employment costs for staff delivering your activity, project or programme.	Clergy posts, posts in schools and salaries relating to the general management and administration of your organisation (e.g. finance, HR, fundraising and communications).
Training	Training of staff and/or volunteers with a clear link to programme objectives.	
Volunteer costs	Reasonable volunteer expenses to enable volunteers to take part in or deliver your project.	
Venue hire, rent and utilities	Hire of specific venue to deliver your activity or project (e.g. in a new location or because you need more space).	Ongoing rent, utilities or insurances for your normal premises (e.g. church building or office).
Events	Reasonable costs to deliver events as part of a wider programme that meets programme objectives.	One-off or recurring events, conferences, retreats and pilgrimages.
Equipment, materials and IT	Essential equipment and materials to enable project activities to take place. Essential IT costs (e.g. laptops) for new project staff.	The purchase of musical instruments, portable AV equipment and vehicles. IT systems, software and websites forming part of core costs.
Marketing and promotion costs	Marketing and promotion costs that represent a proportionate amount of the project budget and help to deliver your desired impact.	
Resources and publications	Reasonable costs for the production of resources that are integral to the impact of a wider project.	Resources with limited impact, including books, social media content, videos, online courses and the development or reprinting of resources as a stand-alone project.
Consumables	Modest refreshments needed for specific project activities involving participants or volunteers.	The purchase of food (e.g. for foodbanks or meals services), clothing and toiletries.



Key funding principles

Before you apply, you should make sure your project is a good fit for our key funding principles:

- Clear fit with one or more of our programme objectives
- Demonstrates clear evidence of need or demand
- Will result in significant, measurable impact for participants or beneficiaries
- Informed by experience and a good understanding of the context
- Supported by a clear delivery plan and an achievable fundraising plan
- Inclusive in nature and demonstrates respect for all

Grant size

When completing your application, you will be asked to present the total costs, rather than requesting a specific grant amount. Please ensure that your total project costs are at least £2,000 as we are unable to accept applications for smaller projects. If your project fits the programme criteria, the size of your grant will be calculated by our Grants Officers based on factors like total costs and impact. We will also consider the deprivation levels where your project is taking place and may apply a deprivation uplift when determining the size of your grant. Typically, grant sizes will range between 10% and 30% of your total eligible project costs, before any deprivation uplift is applied, and our total grant will not normally exceed 50% of your total eligible costs. The average size of a Community Impact Grant in 2025 was £23,000.

When to apply

The Community Impact Grants programme is open for applications throughout the year. There are no deadlines. However, once an organisation has received a grant under the Community Impact Grants programme, another application cannot be made to the same programme for a period of two years. This rule also applies to previous grants made under the Transformational Grants programme. You can receive funding under Community Impact Grants and Building Grants at the same time (and for the same project).

Due to the high volume of applications received, applicants are required to have secured at least 30% of their eligible project costs from other funding sources before making an application. This can be made up of reserves, grants from other funders or other funding sources (e.g. congregational/community fundraising, legacies, loans). You will be asked to confirm your secured funding sources and tell us about your other fundraising plans in your application form.

How to apply

Applications are made through the [Apply](#) section of our website where you can use our eligibility checker and find a link to our online application system. When you submit your application form, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application.

Once submitted, your application will be assessed by a Grants Officer and considered at the next available decision meeting. Decision time depends on the size of the grant we are considering awarding. Please see our [FAQs](#) for further information.

If you are awarded a grant

Our standard [Grant Terms & Conditions](#) apply to all grants made by the Trust. Some grants will have reporting requirements, including a final report for all grants over £10k and annual progress reports for multi-year grants.

Further information

If you would like further information about the Trust and its grant-making, please visit our [website](#), and you may find it helpful to read our [FAQs](#). If you have a specific question about your application or how to use our online portal, please contact us at info@benefacttrust.co.uk.