



The ACT Foundation

Enhancing the Quality of Life for People in Need

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Do you provide direct grants to individuals?

A No, we only provide grants to other UK charities registered with the Charity Commission. We look to these Charity Partners to provide support to individuals. Our Charity Partners are specialists with the necessary expertise and resources required to provide support directly to individuals across each of our 4 life themes. Through these partnerships we are better able to target our limited resources and ensure that we are reaching as many people in need as we possibly can.

Q What will you fund?

A We believe that people living with a mental and/or physical disability or a long-term illness should have the same choices, quality of life opportunities and aspirations as others. To help us achieve this goal we provide grants to charities that support one or more of our 4 "life themes".

We operate 2 grant programmes – Small Grants for applications of under £10,000 and Large Grants for applications of £10,000 and over.

Q What don't you fund?

A

- We do not fund projects that are completed by the time of our decision.
- We do not fund projects that support a particular political or religious persuasion.
- We do not fund Statutory services including local or national authorities, NHS hospitals or services, prisons and state schools except where the school is wholly for students with additional needs.
- We do not fund universities, further education colleges or independent schools except where the facility is wholly for students with additional needs.
- We do not fund core operating costs except in connection with setting up a new service or where the charity has an income of £1M or less and the application is made under our Small Grants Programme.
- We will not fund other grant making charities except through a match funding partnership.
- We will not fund community centres and youth clubs except where those benefiting have physical and/or a mental disability, are elderly or suffering from a long-term illness.
- We do not accept applications for overseas projects.

Q What is the maximum amount of funding available?

A We do not set a limit and each project is considered on a case by case basis. Large grants are the exception however and most are under £10,000. All charities that make applications for £10,000 or more may be visited as part of our due diligence.

Q How long does it take to determine whether we will be awarded a grant or not?

A We aim to decide on 90% of grant applications within 2 months of receipt. Applications for larger grants can take up to 6 months depending on the cycle of Trustee meetings and the due diligence visits.

Q Will our annual income impact on your decision to award a grant?

A In short, the answer is yes. Our annual grant giving budget is dependent on the performance of our investment portfolio. We do not fundraise publicly. In any year we receive many more applications than we can fund.

At the moment, we consider all applications from all charities that fit our application requirements regardless of their annual income and we are looking for projects that deliver transformational change. We will however give priority to small to medium size charities that have limited fundraising capability when we believe our grant will make a real difference to the community they serve.

Q Will you give me feedback if our application is unsuccessful?

A No, we do not enter into any discussions with applicants that have been unsuccessful.

Q How often can we apply?

A We work in partnership with charities and these partnerships tend to last many years and, once the partnership has commenced, it is unlikely that any unsolicited applications would be made. Charities that were successful with their initial application may apply again after 12 months.

Q Can we apply if we are a newly registered charitable organisation?

A We only accept applications from charities with a proven track record that have been registered with a UK Charity Commission for a minimum of 3 years.

Q We are an overseas charity. Can we apply?

A We do not accept applications for overseas projects.

Q Are there any geographical restrictions on the areas in which you fund?

A There are no geographical restrictions for our funding.

Q We are a UK registered charity. Can we apply for funding towards our operating costs?

A No. We do not provide grants towards the running costs of charities unless it is for the setting up of a new service via a pilot project or where the charity has an income of £1M or less and the application is made under our Small Grants Programme.

Q Will you come and visit us?

A We like to visit all charities that apply for a grant of £10,000 or more to undertake more detailed due diligence. We may also visit on the installation of a piece of equipment or on completion of a building project that we have helped fund.

Q How will I know that you have received our application?

A Your application will be acknowledged by e-mail immediately following its submission via our online form.