

## Funding Application Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for **any** grant from us, you need to meet all our criteria. If you do not meet all these criteria, we recommend you do not submit an application. Ineligible applications will not be considered.

For more detailed guidance on our core costs programme, please see our [Invest Programme Guidance](#). You can also find more detail on applying for our development grants in our [Enable Programme Guidance](#).

### 1. Basic Criteria

- You must be a Charity or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission.
- Your charity must have an income between **£25,000** and **£1 million**.
- Your charity must work with people aged 17 and over, who are facing the complex social issues listed in section three. The only exception is supporting young parents or looked after children and young people with learning disabilities who are moving into independent living.

### 2. Your Organisation

To be eligible to apply, each of the following statements must apply to your charity:

- You are a charity or charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission.
- You have **at least** one year of published accounts covering a twelve-month operating period. **The accounts must show as ‘received’ on the Charity Commission website.**
- You have a been delivering direct services for at least one year.

*Your charity must show evidence (usually through the Annual Reports and Accounts) of direct face-to-face service delivery with people affected by complex social issues within the past year. If you have recently merged, then this must apply to at least one charity pre-merger. If your charity is conducting pilot work, working with a different client group or breaking into a new geographic area, then you must show evidence of face-to-face delivery in your other work.*

- Your income in the last set of published accounts was greater than £25,000 and less than £1 million.

*This is total income and in the case of consolidated accounts should cover all entities within those accounts. This applies even if your income exceeds £1million due to an unusual one-off payment such as a legacy or capital grant.*

- You have free reserves of less than 12 months' expenditure in the last set of published accounts.

*Free reserves are the amount of unrestricted cash reserves your charity held at year-end. This includes reserves which you have decided to allocate but are free to reallocate as needed and does not include the value of fixed assets such as buildings.*

- You have your own bank account.

*Each applying charity must have its own bank account in the charity's name. If the application is successful, the grant will be paid into this account.*

Has your charity recently merged with another organisation?  
*Charities that have recently merged must still be able to demonstrate:*

- At least one charity pre-merger has a one-year track-record of working with the client group.
- Income of less than £1million and more than £25,000. Where one year of accounts is not yet available as the newly registered charity, then the combined income in the two sets of published accounts should not exceed £1million.
- Less than 12 months of free reserves. Where one year of accounts is not yet available as the new entity, then the combined free reserves in the two sets of published accounts should not exceed the combined total expenditure.

- You have an active board of at least three unrelated Trustees.

*Where Trustees are related, we will consider the relationship, conflicts of interest and the balance of power of the related Trustees. For example, if two of three Trustees are related, we are likely to conclude that they hold too much influence and that there is a conflict of interest; whereas if two out of ten Trustees are related and there are clear procedures in place to manage any conflicts of interest, then this is likely to be acceptable.*

- Are your charity's registered charitable objectives up to date?

*We will look at your stated objectives to ensure that the work that you are looking to fund is in line with your organisation's purpose.*

- You operate mainly in England and Wales.

*Most of your charity's time and money spent on activities in England and/or Wales, and helping people living in England and Wales who are experiencing the complex social issues we fund.*

*Are you working in partnership with other delivery organisations?  
We welcome applications from delivery partnerships as long as:*

- *The applicant is the lead partner and meets our eligibility criteria (the other organisation/s do not need to meet the criteria but must be based in England or Wales)*
- *The applicant organisation spends at least 50% of the grant*
- *Appropriate partnership agreement/s are in place. These will need to be provided.*

Additionally, we **do not** provide funding for the following organisations:

- Community Interest Companies
- Infrastructure or 'umbrella' organisations. We would consider requests from these organisations only for any direct delivery of support to disadvantaged people.
- Organisations whose primary purpose is to give funds to individuals or other organisations. This means organisations using more than 50% of annual expenditure as grants.
- Hospitals, health authorities or hospices
- Rescue services
- Nurseries, pre-schools or playgroups
- Schools, colleges, universities
- Animal charities
- Charities working outside England and Wales

### 3. Your Work

We fund organisations supporting people who are experiencing complex social issues resulting in a significant impact on their lives. Applicants will need to demonstrate:

- They work with individuals in depth
- The work is person centred, holistic and targeted on the people that you are seeking to support.
- A journey of change towards a positive outcome/s

We fund work addressing the following complex social issues:

Social Issue	People the work supports
Domestic abuse	<p><b>People who have experienced abuse:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic abuse: an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence;</li> </ul> <p><b>Perpetrators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who have systematically abused another person to gain power or control in a domestic or intimate relationship.</li> </ul>
Sexual abuse and exploitation	<p><b>People who have experienced sexual abuse and exploitation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual violence</li> <li>• honour-based violence;</li> <li>• female genital mutilation;</li> <li>• adults who experience trauma from sexual exploitation in their childhood;</li> <li>• people who have been groomed;</li> <li>• people who have been sexually exploited online;</li> <li>• people involved in sex work where it has a significant adverse impact on their lives.</li> </ul>
Mental health	<p><b>Our funding supports charities with a strong track record of working with:</b></p> <p>People who are managing mental health problems resulting in <b>significant disruption</b> to everyday living or in recovery from an episode of such problems occurring in the last two years.</p> <p>This includes people managing conditions such as depression, schizophrenia or eating disorders. It does not</p>

	<p>include neurological conditions such as dementia or acquired brain injuries.</p> <p>As we want to support people who are most affected by this complex social issue, it is likely that the people you are supporting will be experiencing enduring mental health problems and will have received a clinical diagnosis.</p> <p>We are particularly interested in receiving applications from specialist mental health providers, working to address a gap in statutory provision.</p> <p>Questions your assessor may ask include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are the people you support significantly affected in their everyday living?</li> <li>• What % of the people you support have a clinical diagnosis</li> <li>• Where do your referrals come from?</li> <li>• What gap(s) in statutory provision are you addressing/ filling?</li> </ul>
<p>Homelessness/ vulnerably housed</p>	<p><b>Our funding supports charities with a strong track record of working with:</b></p> <p>People with no accommodation; living in temporary, overcrowded accommodation; or who are vulnerably housed where there is a high risk of becoming homeless.</p> <p>We do not generally fund short-term emergency accommodation e.g. winter shelters.</p>
<p>Offending, prison or community service</p>	<p>People with a history of offending which <b>significantly</b> impacts on everyday life; rehabilitation of and prevention of reoffending for people with a custodial or community service sentence.</p> <p>Questions your assessor may ask include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where do your referrals comes from?</li> <li>• How do you engage with the probation service, Community Rehabilitation Companies, and other organisations supporting people with a history of offending?</li> <li>• What is your track record of achieving positive outcomes from people with a history of offending? How do you track/ measure this?</li> </ul>

Care leavers	People who are currently managing the transition from having spent time in <b>care</b> as a child. Such <b>care</b> could be in foster <b>care</b> , residential <b>care</b> , or other arrangements.
Learning disability	<p>People who have a learning disability that <b>significantly impacts</b> on their lives.</p> <p>We are particularly interested in supporting charities who work with people with learning disabilities who are also affected by other complex social issues (e.g. mental health, domestic abuse and/ or exploitation) and offer support for their service users' range of needs. We would also like to receive applications from charities supporting those who are managing the transition from residential or family care to independent living.</p> <p>You will need to be able to clearly demonstrate that your work allows people with a learning disability to achieve positive outcomes, such as medium to long term employment or into independent living.</p> <p>Questions your assessor will ask you may ask include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your track record of delivering the stated positive outcomes e.g. moving people with a learning disability into employment or independent living?</li> <li>• What are the range of complex social issues that your service users are affected by, and what support to you offer them to address these?</li> </ul>
Dependency on alcohol, drugs, substances and/or gambling	<p>People whose lives are <b>significantly affected</b> by their dependency on, for example, alcohol, drugs, substances and gambling.</p> <p>Your work will involve working directly with the individual with the dependency and may also include working with their families.</p>
Trafficking and modern slavery	People who have been trafficked or forced against their will into labour or marriage.
Young parents	Parents under the age of 21 whose lives are significantly adversely affected (e.g. their health, education, finances and/or opportunities) by parenthood.
Asylum seekers and refugees	People who are asylum seekers or have been granted refugee status in the last two years.

	<p>Questions your assessor will ask you may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What proportion of your service users are asylum seekers or refugees?</li><li>• Of the refugees you work with, what proportion have had their asylum granted in the last two years?</li><li>• How do you support your service users beyond the decision on their application?</li><li>• If your services include advice provision, do you have, or are you working towards, OISC accreditation?</li><li>• What partnerships do you have in place with other service providers?</li></ul>
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### We will not provide grants for:

- Medical care or medical research
- Online or telephone advice services
- Events or short-term interventions including holidays and trips
- Significant capital purchases or building work and purchase of vehicles
- The promotion of religion. (*This does not exclude organisations that may have a religious element to them as long as their charitable objectives show a wider benefit*)
- Loan repayments
- Sponsorship or funding towards an appeal
- Work that has already taken place

Please see our [Invest and Enable guidance documents](#) for more detail on the work each of these programmes supports.