

Eligibility Criteria for Funding 2022

Thank you for taking the time to understand whether Lloyds Bank Foundation is the right funder for your charity.

It's helpful to read this document before you start your application to us, as it explains who and what we fund, as well as how we make decisions. It comprises five sections:

1. [Our overall approach to grantmaking](#)
1. [Our Basic Eligibility Criteria](#)
1. [Our 'Complex Social Issues'](#)
1. [What we look for in the work we fund: 'Our Programme Fit'](#)
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Hopefully, it tells you everything you need to know about us, but if you still have any questions, please do send us an email (enquiries@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk) or call us on 0370 411 1223 before starting your application. Wishing you every success with your work,



Harriet Stranks
Director of Grants
Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales

Our overall approach to grant making

Even if you have had support from us in the past, you may not know about some of the changes to our funding approach, such as:

1. Our regional funding priorities,
2. Our approach to safeguarding and quality standards
3. Our commitment to Racial Equity

1. **Regional funding priorities**

We recognise that there are many charities who would like, and would benefit from, our support but, like any funder, we have a limit to the resources we have available. This year, we will be able to make around 190 unrestricted two-year grants of £50,000 to small charities across England and Wales.

We know there are many more organisations that would be eligible to apply. We want to be open and transparent with charities and make best use of your time by being clear in advance which charities and areas we are more likely to fund at any time. Therefore, we have introduced Regional Priorities.

Regional Priorities consider local need, the prevalence of eligible small and medium sized charities, the nature of the region and the level of investment the Foundation has given to each complex social issue in that area, including our portfolio of live grants. We use this information to prioritise investment in certain Complex Social Issues in certain parts of England and Wales.

This means that, when you apply to us, you first select the **Complex Social Issue** you are working to address, and then the **Local Authority you do the majority of your work in**. Based on that information, you will be able to see whether we're currently able to accept an application from you. The current Regional Priorities were reviewed and updated in March 2022 and will be in place until summer 2022.

2. **Our approach to safeguarding**

The Foundation is committed to promoting the safety of everyone that uses the services of the charities we fund and so will review your safeguarding arrangements and practice as part of our assessment. The Foundation recognises and takes seriously its responsibility to promote the welfare of adults at risk/children where we become aware of any safeguarding concerns.

Therefore, not only **must your charity have a safeguarding policy in place**, but we will also assess your understanding of this policy as well as the approach to safeguarding across your organisation, for example what safeguarding your Trustees, staff and volunteers have access to, when you last recorded a safeguarding incident, and how that was dealt with in practice etc.

3. Our commitment to Racial Equity

In 2020, we made a commitment to ringfence 25% of our funding to charities led by, and which support, minoritised and racialised communities. To ensure we achieve this ambition, we launched a dedicated Racial Equity fund.

You can apply for this funding if your charity is led by-and-for people from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic communities, and meets the basic eligibility criteria explained below. This means having more than half of your Trustee Board self-identify as belonging to a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic community. -

Our Basic Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for any grant from us, your charity needs to meet all the following criteria (these questions are in the Online Eligibility Checker).

Your organisation must:

Be a registered charity and have a registered charity number (this can be as a CIO):

- Have an annual income of between £25,000 and £1m
- Have its own bank account
- Hold free reserves of less than 12 months' operating costs
- Have at least one set of annual accounts published on the Charity Commission website, having been delivering services for more than a year in England and/or Wales
- Have a track record of working with people aged 17 and over
- A safeguarding policy in place
- Meet one of the Foundations regional priorities at the time of submitting the application
- Be an independent organisation (the board has full control of the charity's work)
- Not have paid Trustees
- Not have a live grant with Lloyds Bank Foundation with more than six months to run*

*If you already have a grant with Lloyds Bank Foundation, you can apply in the final six months of the grant, if you have sent us your end of year report. However, if you currently hold a grant through one of our national programmes (such as criminal justice, infrastructure or welfare reform), you are eligible to apply to us for this funding.

If you're not sure whether this applies to your charity, please [contact us](#) before starting your application.

1. Your charitable status

You must be a Charity or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission, and we will ask for your Charity Registration Number at the start of your application. Pending registrations will not be accepted.

2. Your annual income

Your charity must have had an annual income of between £25,000 and £1 million in your last set of accounts published on the Charity Commission website. 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 £1 million due to an unusual one-off payment such as a legacy or capital grant.

However, if your charity has received funds on behalf of a network of organisations or consortium, rather than for its own use, we may consider you eligible depending on the details of the arrangement.

3. Own Bank Account

Each applying charity must also have its own bank account in the charity's name with unrelated cheque signatories. If the application is successful, the grant must be paid into this account.

4. Free Reserves

You must have free reserves equivalent to less than 12 months' expenditure in your last set of published accounts.¹ This includes reserves which you have decided to allocate but are free to reallocate as needed but does not include the value of fixed assets such as buildings.

5. Annual accounts

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.

6. Your work

Your charity must work with people aged 17 and over, who are facing at least one of the complex social issues listed in Appendix A. The only exception to this is where you work with young parents under 17.

7. Safeguarding policy

You must have a safeguarding policy in place. We will assess your understanding of this policy as well as the approach to safeguarding across your organisation.

8. Track Record

When assessing applications, we check that the charity has a track record of delivering holistic, in-depth services to people facing the complex social issue you are aiming to address of at least one year. You must also currently be delivering these services. If you have recently merged, then this must apply to at least one charity pre-merger. We will ask for evidence of service delivery with people affected by complex social issues from the past year.

9. Area of Operation

You must 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/or Wales who are experiencing the complex social issues we fund.

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. If you are a faith-based charity, you are welcome to apply but we will look at your work carefully to ensure that you have charitable objects beyond the promotion of religion. We will not fund organisations that specify that members or volunteers must come from a certain faith background.

10. Your Governance

You need to have a Board of at **least three unrelated Trustees** in place, with their names appearing on your Charity Commission records.

Where some of your Trustees are related, we will consider the relationship, conflicts of interest, the balance of power of the related Trustees and the ways in which this is managed. For example, if two of four Trustees are related, we are likely to conclude that they hold too much influence and that there is a conflict of interest. If two out of ten Trustees are related, and there are clear procedures in place to manage any conflicts of interest, this is likely to be acceptable.

We do not fund charities where paid staff are also members of the Board of Trustees. This is to ensure there is a clear separation of duties and powers between the Boards and staff teams of the charities we work with.

We also examine relationships between Trustees and senior staff at the charity to ensure any conflicts of interest are effectively managed. We want to ensure there are clear policies and procedures in place to manage any conflicts of interest, and we would not expect there to be a formal line management relationship between the individuals. Cheque signatories should not be related.

We **can only fund independent charities**, so we will look closely at any formal associations you have with other organisations, parent bodies or group structures. We will check that the Board of the applicant charity has full control over its work, and any conflicts of interest or related party transactions are clearly explained and managed.

11. Exclusions

We do not provide funding for the following organisations:

- Community Interest Companies, or any other organisations that are not charities or CIOs registered in England and Wales
- Infrastructure or 'umbrella' organisations.
- Organisations whose primary purpose is to give funds to individuals or other organisations. This means organisations using more than 50% of their annual expenditure as grants.
- Hospitals, health authorities or hospices
- Rescue services
- Nurseries, pre-schools or playgroups
- Schools, colleges or universities
- Animal charities
- Charities working predominantly outside England and Wales

- Organisations that do not have a purpose/benefit beyond the promotion of religion

Our 'Complex Social Issues' and Racial Equity Fund

We focus on charities that support people affected by one or more of the below Complex Social Issues, resulting in a significant adverse impact on their lives. We are interested in funding charities where:

Your charity is a provider of specialist services, where more than half of your work (50%) is focused on one of the following complex social issues (CSIs), delivered in a way that fits the definitions provided below (Our Programme Fit).

- Addiction and Dependency
- Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Domestic Abuse
- Homelessness
- Learning Disability
- Mental Health
- Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

OR

You can demonstrate that some of your work is specifically targeted at supporting one of the following complex social issues, and is delivered in a way that fits the definitions provided below.

- Care Leavers
- Offending, Prison or Community Service
- Trafficking and/or Modern Slavery
- Young Parents

OR - if you are applying to the Racial Equity Fund

More than half of your Trustee Board self-identify as being Black, Asian or from a minority ethnic community, and your charity provides support for your community to access specialist services to address one or more of the complex social issues and is delivered in a way that fits the definitions provided in below (Our Programme Fit)

What we look for in the work we fund: 'Our Programme Fit'

Like any other funder, we cannot support all the applications we receive. We want to focus on the charities that are most likely to have the biggest impact on the lives of people facing the Complex Social Issues identified above. We have developed criteria for the characteristics of the work and charities we are seeking to fund:

- In-depth
- Holistic and person-centred
- Targeted
- Supporting a journey of change
- An appetite for development

In-depth

We fund charities which work with people over a period of time. This could be weekly for 12 weeks or more, it may be regular sessions, or a person may access your charity only when they need support, but we expect that you would see them at least a few times during a year to access support which goes beyond social activities. We do not fund one off support or work where the underlying purpose is social or signposting.

Holistic and person-centred

By holistic, we mean that we expect to see a 'person centred approach' in your work. You'll work with the people you support to identify and agree their specific needs, so that a plan of support can be put in place. We know that a single charity or service can't be expected to meet all of the clients / service user needs, however you should have trusted relationships with providers of local specialist services which enables the people you support to overcome complex social issues and meet their basic needs, (like housing, benefits, health care, domestic abuse services etc.) and when you refer someone for support, you track their progress to ensure their needs are met.

Targeted

We fund work which is specifically and deliberately aimed at those affected by one of our complex social issues to help them overcome, address or manage that particular issue. We do not tend to support work that is purely reactive. You will know who the beneficiaries are, understand their needs and proactively seek to support them. We will ask whether you consult your service users regularly to ensure your offer is as relevant and appropriate to them as possible.

Supporting a journey of change

You keep written or electronic records or case files of each person you are supporting, noting progress against activities. Your charity should be able to demonstrate the difference you are making through these records.

An appetite for development

You are interested in developing how your charity is run. We provide organisational development support alongside core funding of £50,000. This means that we only fund charities that are interested in developing their charity further. This will require time and effort from the charity leaders and the Trustees and might be anything from improving governance, funding plans or introducing a database. We only fund charities that would welcome this support which is paid for by Lloyds Bank Foundation.

An appetite for partnership

You are interested in working with us as a partner. It is important to us that we develop a trusted relationship with you and your charity so that we can support you to do your work, this means that we will speak to you or visit your charity a few times per year, this will enable us to support you effectively.

How to contact us

If you have any questions at all, please do get in touch with us. The team will be happy to help.

Email: enquiries@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk
Telephone: 0370 411 1223