

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 organisations offering interventions to meet the needs of families with a wide-range of problems, including 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 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 organisation¹ with a management committee with at least three unrelated members
- Organisations must be working to benefit people living in Kent
- Funding **will not** be allocated for **core costs of an existing service** unless this will 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.

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

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 £15,000 per annum, for a maximum of three years (in certain circumstances this *may* be extended to five years.)

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

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
- demonstrate a commitment to service user involvement
- can demonstrate partnership working
- offer matched funding opportunities.

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 receiving widespread support
- Statutory bodies and anything deemed to be the responsibility of the State
- 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 or conservation of buildings
- 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.

How to Apply

All applications **must be submitted** using the Trust's online application form. Applications by email will not be accepted. There are no deadlines and decisions are made on a rolling basis. Organisations are **strongly advised** to download a copy of the application questions and prepare their answers in advance in Word, as they will be able to cut and paste these into the online form.

Decisions

We aim to inform applicants as soon as possible about the outcome of their application, but this usually takes between four and six months.

Unfortunately, the Trust receives many more applications than it can fund and therefore many good proposals, have to 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 David Williams grantadmin@cfct.org.uk