

Investing in Communities

Making small grants to community organisations and local charities in Kent to strengthen their resilience and build their capacity to deliver sustainable, face-to-face services to people at the margins of society.

Colyer-Fergusson Trust believes that small, locally focused organisations are often best placed to deliver flexible, responsive, direct support to the most vulnerable people in society. It also recognises that, at a time of rising demand for services, smaller organisations have been particularly hard hit by funding cuts and the move to contracts and tender-based funding. In response, the Trust is offering a grants' programme targeted at smaller, community-led organisations with three strands:

Stabilising: providing grants for basic running/core costs, **not** specifically connected to delivering projects. By investing in organisations as a whole, the Trust will help local groups concentrate on delivering vital services.

Extending: providing one-off grants for the costs associated with developing and strengthening local, grassroots organisations. For example, helping local groups investigate and test new ways of operating, diversify their services, introduce efficiencies or establish partnerships.

Delivering: providing one-off grants for the costs associated with delivering small projects or resources for socially excluded groups.

The Trust is interested to hear from smaller charities in Kent; those delivering essential services to the most vulnerable people in the community and working at grass roots and local community level across a wide range of activities, where a relatively small amount of money can make a big difference.

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 based in Kent and benefit local communities
- Gross income in the last financial year must be less than £500,000
- Free reserves in the last financial year must be less than twelve months of expenditure
- Grants can be paid only into a UK bank account in the organisation's name.

Level of funding available

Organisations can apply for a grant of between £500 and £5,000 per annum, for a maximum of three years or a one-off grant of up to £15,000. Groups are advised to apply for amounts that are proportionate to their annual turnover. Organisations that are not able to provide published financial records will be restricted in the grants they can apply for. ²

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

² Stabilising – If your organisation cannot provide two years published accounts the maximum grant that can be applied for is a one-off grant of £4,000 or £2,500 per year.

Extending – Only available to groups with two or more years published accounts

Delivering - Only available to groups with one or more years published accounts

STABILISING GRANTS

The Trust aims to help 'stabilise' grassroots groups/community organisations by supporting their **core costs**; giving them the stability to focus on delivering services and building sustainability.

Grants of between £500 and £5,000 per annum will be awarded for up to three years.

Grants are available for **core costs** including, but not exclusive to:

- staffing related to core activities e.g. central administration, management, finance;³
- The costs related to becoming a Living Wage Employer;⁴
- marketing;
- recruitment;
- volunteer costs;
- travel and subsistence;
- utilities and telecommunications;
- rent and building costs;
- insurance.

Please note - newly established organisations, unable provide at least two years of published financial records, can only apply for grants of up to £2,500 per annum (£7,500 maximum award), or a one off grant for a maximum of £4,000.

EXTENDING GRANTS

The Trust aims to help organisations extend their reach and impact by offering grants to help them explore new ways of working. **One-off grants** of between £500 and £15,000 are available for costs including, but not exclusive to:

- consultancy support;
- investigating mergers,
- partnerships and shared services related to core activities;
- Investigation and development (not delivery) of new contracts, income diversification or enterprise;
- Staff training and development;
- Working towards relevant quality standards
- Capital items where there is evidence of ultimate cost savings
- Implementing new IT systems, including monitoring systems

Please note – Extending grants **are only available** to organisations that can provide at least two years of published financial records.

³ The Trust is a Living Wage Funder and encourages grantees to cost up all salary costs at the living wage rate. The current living wage rate can be found [here](#)

⁴ The Trust encourages grantees to commit to becoming a Living Wage Employer and will consider applications to cover the costs of becoming accredited, including uplifting current salaries. Details of becoming a Living Wage Employer can be found [here](#)

DELIVERING GRANTS

The Trust aims to provide grants to support organisations deliver small, one-off, targeted projects or provide resources to vulnerable, socially excluded groups in Kent. **One-off grants** of up to £5,000 are available to cover costs including but not exclusive to:

- project related staffing⁵
- additional space rent/hire
- project equipment/resources

Please note – Delivering grants **are only available** to organisations that can provide at least one year published financial records. For larger amounts please see the Trust's other programmes.

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;
- illustrate how they aim to deliver social outcomes;
- can demonstrate partnership working.

Exclusions

We regret that 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, colleges, hospitals and health authorities
- Medical care, medical equipment or medical research
- Academic research, scholarships or bursaries
- Animal charities
- The promotion of religion
- Museums and galleries or 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

⁵ The Trust is a Living Wage Funder and encourages grantees to cost up all salary costs at the living wage rate. The current living wage rate can be found [here](#)

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 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.

Please note: organisations **can only apply to one** of 'Stabilising', 'Extending' or 'Delivering' funds in the same year. The 'Stabilising' and 'Extending' Funds are for **core/development costs** only. The 'Delivering' Fund is for **small, one-off project costs and community resources**. For larger project cost grants please see CFCT's other programmes.

Decisions

We aim to inform applicants as soon as possible about the outcome of their application– usually taking less than two 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 Steve Boucher sboucher@cfct.org.uk