

COMMUNITY ACTION: MK

Grant Funding from Trusts and Foundations

What is a Charitable Trust?

Charitable Trusts (also known as Grant making Trusts or Foundations) are bodies which are set up with an amount of money to benefit people or charitable activities. The money held by a Trust is normally invested and the income generated is awarded as grants to good causes.

How do Trusts work?

Every Trust is governed by a Trust deed which sets out the objectives of that Trust and how it should work. In the UK there are around 4000 Trusts, supporting various good causes.

How do I know which trust to pick?

Each Trust will decide what they give money to and will issue guidance on their funding priorities. These guidelines (sometimes called Guidance Notes) are normally available on funder's websites or can be requested .

Guidelines set out what type of cause they will consider, what type of organisation they can fund (e.g. registered charities etc), how much they fund, and details of deadlines.

You need to research funders to see which have the 'best fit' for your work.

How do I apply?

The application process for Trusts varies depending on the Trust, but they will set out how you should apply in their guidance. Normally, Trusts would ask for an application letter or application form to be completed and returned to them; some may also ask you to complete a telephone interview although this is not as common. Some trusts may also ask to see supporting documents, such as your constitution or written policies.

Before applying make sure that you have everything in place that a funder asks you to have, so you can make a good first impression.

Finding the right Trust

Selecting the Trust to apply to is very important. You need to select your funder carefully and target the ones that are most likely to fund your cause. It may seem like this is a waste of time, but careful selection of funders will mean that you don't waste time filling in applications that will never have a chance of succeeding.

Top tips for applying to Trusts and Foundations

- Read guidelines to check you are eligible to apply. If you can not meet what that funder wants, look for another – there are plenty out there!
- You can apply to more than one Trust at a time (most Trusts will ask whether you have done this on application forms), but as a rule, never to more than 4 in one go as it makes the task unmanageable
- If you are turned down, ask for feedback—if it is connected to your application, it may help to improve your future applications, and if it is because of over-subscription to that fund, you may be able to apply again at a later date
- Planning is key—make sure you have the basics in place before applying
- Leave yourself plenty of time to apply before you want your project to start
- Don't rely on just one funder - always have a 'plan b'!
- Be clear in your applications about what you want funding for, how much you need, what benefits your project will bring and how you can show that your project is needed
- If you do get funding, make sure you build a relationship with your funder—say 'thank you', invite them to events or keep them up to date with mailings

Information sourced from Buckinghamshire Funding Group and SYFAB

Talk to our Support Team for more help
Support@CommunityActionMK.org or call 01908 661623

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This information sheet has been produced by Community Action: MK and was last updated in 2015. Community Action: MK has taken all reasonable precautions to ensure that information contained in this document is accurate, but stresses that the content is not intended to be legally comprehensive.

