

Eligibility Guidelines: Large Grants

Programmes

- Applicants can only apply for one grant programme at any time
- If your project 'saddles' both themes, then please choose the one that the primary beneficiary group fits in
- Grants can be offered to charities supporting socially isolated and lonely older people over the age of 50

Purpose of a Large Grant

- These grants are for larger charities whose annual income exceeds £500,000
- Large grants are for projects and can be used for salary costs, activities, materials etc.

Purpose of a Small Grant

- These grants are for smaller charities whose annual income does not exceed £500,000
- Small grants can be used for general running and/or overhead costs of the charity – core funding

Grant Size

Large

- Large grants start from £10,000 and on average our grants are between £20,000 – £60,000 in total
- All grants can be over 1,2 or 3 years

Small

- Small grants of between £1,000 – £15,000 are available
- Grants can be over 1, 2, or 3 years
- The total amount of the grant requested must not exceed 15% of the total income of the charity

Age Range

- Grants can be offered to charities supporting socially isolated and lonely older people over the age of 50.

Key Areas of Focus

Grants can be offered to charities/projects that provide:

- Mental and physical health support
- Access to services, e.g. transport and technology
- Community based approaches, i.e. volunteering, positive ageing and neighbourhood support
- Advocacy, social and welfare support

Example Initiatives

Grants can be offered to charities/projects that provide activities such as:

- Emotional and psychological support
- Digital inclusion sessions to enable older people to access services
- Activities and clubs enabling older people to remain active and make friends
- Providing companionship and befriending schemes
- Advice and information on options for those with health conditions
- Carers and respite support

Examples of Desired Outcomes

Short Term

- Reduced feelings of loneliness or social isolation for people in later life
- Older people are better informed about their options and rights leading to greater confidence in choices
- Existing services better supporting the physical, psychological and emotional needs of people as they age
- Increased social participation
- Greater awareness of the subject among Freemasons

Long Term

- Feel less lonely and socially isolated
- Improved health and sense of wellbeing for people as they age
- Established reliable and supportive networks
- The older population living as they choose in a healthy and safe environment
- MCF's profile raised among Freemasons and the public

Eligibility Requirements

- Grants are only made to charities whose beneficiaries are in England and Wales
- Charities must be registered with the Charity Commission or relevant Central registry of the respective Guernsey, Jersey or Isle of Man's government
- Charities must have at least one year of independently examined or audited accounts published on the Charity Commission website for the registered charity number they are applying from

What the MCF will not consider grants for

- Arts and heritage*
- Environmental
- Animal welfare
- Statutory obligations
- Routine delivery of the National Curriculum in schools
- The sole aim of promoting civil liberties and human rights
- Political or lobbying activities
- Contributions towards new build and/or large scale capital projects, e.g. building a new hospice wing
- Capital repairs and/or maintenance of existing buildings
- Hospital equipment, such as MRI scanners
- The support or promotion of any and all religious doctrine
- Contributions to general appeals
- Retrospective funding

*Arts and Heritage projects will only be considered if the project benefits beneficiaries from our priority target groups.

Charities the MCF will not consider applications from

- Hospices
- Current active MCF grant holders
- Umbrella organisations coordinating fundraising on behalf of others
- Third parties seeking funding. MCF does not support organisations coordinating funds on behalf of others
- Social Enterprises, Community Interest Companies or Community interest groups
- Organisations that are not registered charities or are exempt
- Projects or organisations working solely outside of England and/or Wales, the Channel Islands or Isle of Man
- Schools (for routine delivery activities to non-priority groups)
- Nurseries (for routine delivery activities to non-priority groups)
- Hospitals (for routine delivery activities to non-priority groups)
- Churches or other religious institutions
- Individuals
- Those who have had a small grant or second stage large grant application declined within the last 12 months
- Those whose previous grant from the MCF ended less than 2 years ago

Further information

For further information about our Charity Grants programmes or to discuss an application, please contact 020 3146 3337 or email charitygrants@mcf.org.uk