



Applying for a Community Grant Guidelines

Welcome to Hammersmith United Charities. We are a local charity which for the last 400 years has been using gifts made by local people over the centuries to provide housing to older people and grants to relieve other forms of need.

Organisations working with people experiencing some kind of “need” in our Area of Benefit (AOB) are welcome to apply for a grant.

What we fund

Currently our trustees have a particular – though not exclusive- interest in:

- a) Work with families and children. This includes the needs of very young children; support for parents and parenting; work which promotes the education and development of children, including providing them with opportunities for play, creativity and non-traditional learning. Work to support key transition points. It includes work with young people independently of their families; providing opportunities or supporting young people who are vulnerable for various reasons.
- b) Meeting basic needs. This covers support for ensuring people have access to food, shelter, warmth but also advice and support.
- c) Countering isolation. This applies to any group and could include people with disabilities, people who don't speak English, women experiencing domestic violence who don't know where to go for help, older people, carers.
- d) Building confident individuals and communities. This focuses on projects which aim to build confidence, bring people together, encourage volunteering, peer mentoring, advocacy and some support for community groups themselves. It could include some forms of employment support.

Within these priority areas, we are interested in funding a wide range of projects. Our concern is less with what you do and more with the difference you will make. Your project may be a one off or it may be ongoing. We understand that organisations need funding to support their core costs and we recognise that projects need to contribute to and are dependent on core functions. We are happy to contribute to core costs provided there are clear benefits to people living in the AOB.

You can find information about recent grants we have given and stories from groups we have funded on our website.

Head office & Sycamore House
Sycamore Gardens, London, W6 0AS
General enquiries: 020 8741 4326

Registered Charity No: 205856
Homes and Communities Agency Registered No: 1789



Where we work

Our AOB is the former metropolitan borough of Hammersmith. Broadly speaking this is the part of the modern borough of Hammersmith and Fulham which comes within these wards:

- *Addison*
- *Avonmore*
- *Brook Green*
- *College Park & Old Oak*
- *Coningham*
- *Grove*
- *Hammersmith Broadway*
- *Ravenscourt*
- *Shepherd's Bush Green*
- *Wendell Park*
- *White City*
- *Wormholt*

All applications must be for work taking place in or near this area and benefitting residents from the area. If the project works with people from a wider area then we will only fund that proportion of it which benefits our residents. Applicant organisations do not necessarily need to be based in the area but we need to have confidence that they will be able to reach our residents.

Who can apply?

We are open to applications from a wide range of organisations provided they are not for profit. This includes voluntary and community groups and organisations such as community centres. We will also consider applications from schools for work which is not part of the normal curriculum and where the school can show that children experiencing some kind of disadvantage will benefit.

You do not need to be a registered charity but you do need a constitution, some kind of management committee and an organisation bank account requiring at least two independent signatures. We will ask to see your most recent accounts. We can sometimes make payments directly to suppliers where projects are promoted by organisations which do not have these things.

We acknowledge that well managed organisations need to carry sufficient reserves to enable them to discharge their responsibilities to beneficiaries and staff in a responsible way. At the same time, our resources are finite and we want to support projects which might not otherwise happen. Where it seems to us that reserves exceed a prudent level or where we feel that an applicant could contribute at least some of the funding required for the project from their own reserves, we may decline to fund even where the project is both strong and relevant.

If there is any doubt about how we might view your reserves or if there are special circumstances which you need to explain or discuss, we would encourage you to get in touch directly in advance of making an application.

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What do we not fund

We will not fund anything which

- Promotes religion or a specific political cause
- Only helps people who do not live in the AOB
- Is primarily for the benefit of animals or the environment rather than for people
- Benefits people who are not experiencing “need” of some kind

How much do we give?

There are no minimum amounts. The average amount is around £7,500 and the maximum that can be applied for is £15,000. We are happy to be part of a consortium of funders.

How long will we fund for?

We do not make grants for longer than a year in the first instance but we will fund again for another year or two. We are unlikely to fund for longer than three consecutive years. If a project is completed in less than 12 months then groups can reapply but it will need to be 12 months after they were awarded their grant. In other words you can only get a grant approved once in every 12 months.

Since 2023 we have awarded six Flexible 3 Year Grants to offer organisations more scope for planning and responding to changing needs. We plan to do award three further Flexible 3 Year Grants in 2025.

An organisation can only hold one HUC grant at any one time.

What do we expect from you?

We like to visit where we can, sometimes before we make a grant, but usually during the delivery of a funded activity. We will expect a final report telling us how the project went, what difference you think you made and how you spent the money.

In September 2023 our grant monitoring process went online with a new form. Grant holders will be sent a link that will lead to an online form and opportunity to upload documents in relation to their grant.

We are trying to create a community of grant holders and we may invite you to take part in networking events or specialist meetings to help us explore a specific issue. These are entirely voluntary.

How to apply

We welcome initial enquiries and to arrange a chat please email us. We like to meet new applicants to develop a better understanding of what you are doing and we are happy to give advice about potential projects.

In September 2023 our grant application process went online with a new form. Full guidance and instructions are on our website .

Contact

Paul Robson and Paige Windust at grants@hamunitedcharities.com

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