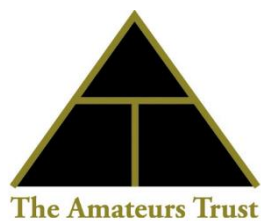


CRITERIA

STABILITY FUND- BEDFORDSHIRE & LUTON

A FUND MANAGED BY
BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



GRANTS OFFERED

Grants are available of **up to £10,000 per year** for a maximum of 2 years, for smaller organisations with an income of under £250k pa.

INTRODUCTION

This Fund aims to provide sustainability to organisations in Bedford Borough, Central Beds or Luton delivering key services address urgent local need and in particular preventative services. The fund will offer financial stability over a period of 2 years to **established** charitable organisations, which already have a clear track record in delivering their work locally in support of residents in Bedfordshire (in at least 1 of the local authority areas) for a minimum of 3 years.

This fund follows the learning from Stability Fund Round 1 and 2 which have supported organisations toward their core and sustainable development plans.

Please note if you are applying for core funding, you will be asked to evidence your organisation's current financial position and plans for return to sustainability within a known timescale, including:

- Information to explain current financial position in terms of operating budget
- Information regarding status of and plans for any restricted reserves
- Operational plans and financial forecast, covering the next 12 months and an indicative plan for longer term financial sustainability
- Smaller community groups can submit a simple budget/ plan showing projected income and expenditure for the next 12 months.

PRIORITIES

Priorities that need to be addressed through this fund are outlined in BLCF Strategic Plan [Strategic Plan - Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation \(blcf.org.uk\)](https://www.blcf.org.uk) and include the following.

1. **Mental Health** – Young People; Elderly; Social Exclusion or those who are vulnerable
2. **Poverty** – Homelessness, Advice, Information, Guidance (IAG) & Employment and Retraining (in particular for young people)
3. **Equity** - those working with beneficiaries that are disproportionately affected

ELIGIBILITY

Groups must:

- ✓ Be based in the Bedford Borough, Central Beds or the Luton area
- ✓ Have a committee of at **least three unrelated** Trustees/Directors (if you have more than this the majority must be unrelated individuals with no financial interest in the organisation).
- ✓ Be a voluntary organisation, community group, small charity or other not for profit organisation (eligible structures include, registered charities, CIC, CIO or constituted group-with clear charitable aims)
- ✓ Have a bank account in the group's name (with two unrelated signatories)
- ✓ Have an income of less than £250k within the last financial year.
- ✓ Have a clear track record in delivering services locally and have been in operation for at least 3 years

WHO CANNOT APPLY/ WHAT WORK WILL NOT BE SUPPORTED?

- Those organisations that have received funding under previous rounds of this funding programme and/or who have 3 or more active grants with BLCF (as per our grantmaking policy).
- Individuals
- Private Businesses
- Companies Ltd by Guarantee
- CASC's or other sport based groups
- Religious bodies
- National organisations and their affiliates
- General appeals or sponsorship
- Work normally funded from statutory sources
- Work undertaken by/ on behalf of schools, colleges or universities as part of their statutory curricular activities
- Work undertaken by or on behalf of statutory bodies
- Work for the advancement of religion
- Work where the main beneficiaries are animals
- Work which does not directly benefit people living in the area of benefit.
- Overseas holidays or trips
- To support capital costs where the balance of funding needed to proceed has yet to be secured.
- Grants cannot be awarded to organisations that are currently inactive / not delivering services and activities

THE PROCESS

Applying

Only requests for funding made via the official online application form will be considered. The form can be accessed via our website under the appropriate grants tab: www.blcf.org.uk Please ensure you attach any supporting documents required. If you struggle to upload the supporting documents, then please forward these by email to administrator@blcf.org.uk

If you experience any difficulties with completing the application or providing any of the requested documentation, please let us know via email.

Decisions

There will be a clear timeframe for applicants to apply. The deadline for applications is **Friday 1st March (5pm)** although we welcome applications before this date. NB We reserve the right to close to applications earlier, if we experience significant demand.

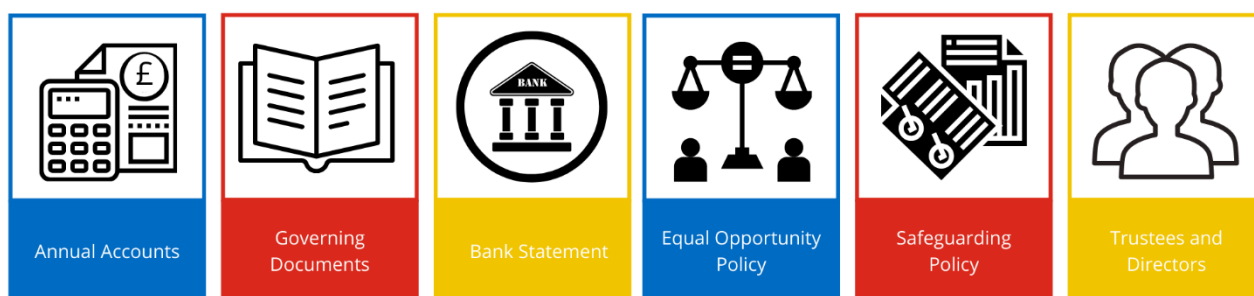
Decisions will be made by mid April by our community panel. Only those that best meet the priorities of the fund will be shortlisted and considered by the panel. Applicants that are not shortlisted will be notified accordingly.

An assessor will contact you to obtain further information as part of our normal process. Once decisions are made, we will contact you by email to let you know the outcome.

If you require any assistance with the completion of your application, please contact BLCF on administrator@blcf.org.uk

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following supporting documents must be uploaded with your application alongside a **copy of the full budget breakdown for the project/activity, including how you have worked out any costs:**



If you do not have an Equal Opportunity or Safeguarding policy, please get in touch before applying.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Successful organisations will be required to complete interim progress reports throughout the course of the funding period (2 years) and a more detailed monitoring report at the end of the project. Monitoring intervals will be agreed at the start of the funding period, with each successful organisation. A member of BLCF may also ask each funded group to accommodate a visit, to enable us to see first hand the work organisations are delivering.

Generally, in end of grant reports we will be asking how the grant was spent, outcomes achieved or not, as well as the difference the project has made, any key issues and lessons learnt.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are committed to promoting equal opportunities and to valuing diversity regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion/belief, culture, language, disability, learning difficulty, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status, health status, or any other discriminatory grounds.

Should you have any queries about this criteria or applying to this fund please contact a member of the BLCF team who will be able to help either by phone: 01525 306690 or email administrator@blcf.org.uk

****This fund is only open to organisations who are based in Bedfordshire & Luton.**