



believe.
inspire.
change.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

When can I apply to DWF Charitable Foundation?

Applications can be made at any time using our online application form

How do I request support from DWF Foundation?

The DWF Foundation trustees will only consider requests for support, submitted via our [online application form](#).

Where do I get an application form for requesting support from DWF Foundation?

Please visit our [website](#)

Who can apply?

The DWF Foundation will welcome applications from Registered Charities only.

DWF Foundation welcomes applications from countries in which DWF has a presence.

The DWF Foundation focuses on providing grants and support to charities in locations where DWF operates:

- Australia
- Canada
- France
- Germany
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Poland
- Qatar
- Spain
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States

DWF also has associations with other law firms in the countries below but DWF Foundation does not currently fund in these locations:

- Singapore
- South Africa
- Turkey

N.B. On the application form please include your countries appropriate registered charity or not for profit number.

Is there a restriction on distance from a DWF office for projects you will consider?

There is no restriction on distance from a DWF office. We fund in countries where DWF has a presence, and applications are considered on a country-by-country basis. In the USA, our current geographic focus is the Chicago area, and in India our focus is Pune.

Are there deadlines for applications?

There are no deadlines for applications and requests can be submitted at any time. We do however have a cut off point for the next meeting the application will be considered, please see the timetable below in "How often we consider requests".

Notification of the outcome of your application?

You will be notified if your application has been successful or unsuccessful. Due to the large volume of applications received and to help keep administrative costs to a minimum, we currently cannot provide feedback on the applications.

Who makes the decision on what projects are supported?

DWF Foundation trustees make the decisions on which projects are supported. Our Trustee Board is made up of people from within DWF and external members, bringing a range of skills, knowledge and experience to support the operations of the DWF Foundation and our grant-making. As part of our grant-making process, we also engage with DWF office locations to gain local knowledge and insight to inform our funding decisions. To view our board of Trustees, please [click here](#).

How often do you consider requests for support?

Applications will be accepted at any time and if eligible for funding will be presented at the next Grants Committee meeting. Please see below guidelines on timescales for applications:

Application deadline	Grant committee meeting	Applicants notified by end
31 January 2026	31 January 2026	31 January 2026
30 June 2026	30 June 2026	30 June 2026
30 September 2026	30 September 2026	30 September 2026

What is the minimum and maximum size of grant you can apply for?

There is no minimum grants size you can request. However due to the amount of funding available our maximum grant size is £5000. The trustees do not consider request above £5000.

Do you fund more than one year projects?

Due to the amount of funding available we will only provide funding for one off grants. However this may change in the future depending on the availability of funds.

Do you fund organisations that are not charities?

We only fund registered charities. We do not fund community interest companies (CICs) or social enterprises. The applying charity must be registered in the country in which it is delivering the work.

Do you fund running costs?

Due to the funds available we will only fund running costs if they are part of a project application.

Do you fund salaries?

We do not fund salaries or part salaries. We may consider supporting sessional worker costs, but only where the sessional worker is brought in specifically to deliver a defined element of the project and your organisation does not have the skills or capacity to deliver that element in-house.

What types of projects do you prioritise?

We fund projects that align with the DWF Foundation's priorities and deliver clear, measurable benefit for the people or communities you support. Before applying, please review our guidance on what we fund and ensure your project outcomes, activities and budget clearly match our criteria.

What types of projects or costs won't you fund?

We will not fund organisations that are not registered charities (including CICs and social enterprises) and we do not fund salaries or part salaries. If you are unsure whether a cost or activity is eligible, please explain it clearly in your application and why it is essential to delivering the project.

Do you fund other grant-making organisations?

No. We do not provide grants to other grant-making organisations or funders.

Do you fund charities delivering projects through a partner organisation in another country?

The applying organisation must be a registered charity in the country where the work is being delivered. If you work with partner organisations, please explain the delivery arrangements, who is responsible for project management and safeguarding, and how the funds will be controlled and reported on.

Do you fund schools, universities, hospitals or local authorities?

We only fund registered charities. If your organisation is not a registered charity, you would not be eligible to apply. If a separate, registered charitable entity is applying, please provide its registration details and confirm it will deliver the work.

Can a host charity (fiscal sponsor) apply on behalf of another group?

We can only accept applications from the registered charity that will be accountable for the funds and responsible for delivery and reporting. The applying charity must be registered in the country where the work will be delivered.

What can the grant be spent on?

What information should we include in the project budget?

Please include a clear breakdown of the costs that make up your total request (for example, item descriptions, quantities, unit costs and totals). A detailed budget helps us understand exactly what the funding will be used for and enables us to consider whether, if we are unable to fund the full project, we may be able to fund specific elements of it.

What currency should we use when completing the budget?

When completing the application, please provide your budget figures in pounds sterling (£). If your application is successful, we will pay the grant in your local currency.

Grants must be used for the purposes set out in your approved project application. Please provide a clear, itemised budget and explain how each cost contributes to the project outcomes and represents value for money. If your budget includes any specialist external support, please explain why it is needed and why it cannot be delivered in-house.

Do you fund capital items or equipment?

We consider funding requests on a case-by-case basis. If you are requesting equipment or other one-off items, please explain why they are essential to delivering the project, how they will be used, who will benefit, and how the items will be maintained and safeguarded.

Do you fund overheads or core costs?

We will only consider running costs/overheads where they are directly linked to delivering the project you are applying for. Please explain what the cost covers, why it is required to deliver the project, and how it has been calculated.

Can we include VAT, taxes, bank charges or exchange rate costs in the budget?

If these costs are unavoidable and directly related to delivering the project, please include them in your budget and explain how you have calculated them. We assess budgets on a case-by-case basis and may request clarification.

Do we need to have other funders or match funding in place?

You do not need to have match funding in place to apply. If other funding is required to deliver the project, please explain what is already secured, what is pending, and how you will proceed if the remaining funding is not confirmed.

What information or documents will we need to apply?

You will need to provide details about your charity, the project you want us to fund, the outcomes you will deliver and a clear budget. Please ensure you have your charity registration number and key project information to hand when completing the online form.

How long does the application take to complete?

This will depend on the complexity of your project and how much information you have prepared in advance. We recommend drafting your responses in a Word document first so you can copy them into the online form.

Can we save the application and return to it later?

The online application form is managed via the Plinth Portal. If you need to complete your application over more than one sitting, the form can be saved and returned too. After submission, you will be able to access your submitted application via the Plinth Portal.

Can we change our application after it has been submitted?

If you need to make a change after submission, please contact the Foundation Manager as soon as possible. Depending on the stage of the review process, it may not always be possible to amend an application once it has been submitted.

Who do we contact if we have technical issues using the Plinth Portal?

If you experience technical issues using the Plinth Portal, please contact the Plinth team who will be able to assist. If the problem persists, please contact the Foundation Manager.

How long will it take to receive a decision?

Eligible applications are considered at the next Grants Committee meeting. Please refer to the timetable in the "How often do you consider requests for support?" section for the relevant cut-off date and when applicants will be notified.

What criteria do you use to assess applications?

We assess applications based on eligibility, alignment with the DWF Foundation's priorities, the need your project addresses, the outcomes and impact you expect to achieve, how feasible the delivery plan is, and whether the budget is clear and proportionate. We may also consider relevant local insight from DWF office locations as part of the review process.

If our application is successful, how and when is the grant paid?

If your application is successful, we will confirm the payment process and any grant conditions when we notify you of the award. Please ensure the bank details provided in your application are correct and belong to the applying charity.

If our application is successful, how long do we have to provide the paperwork to claim the funds?

If your application is successful, you will have 4 months from the date of the grant offer to provide the relevant paperwork to claim the funds. If this information is not provided within this timeframe, the grant offer will be rescinded.

What reporting will be required if we receive a grant?

We will ask you to complete an evaluation form to tell us how the grant was used and what difference it made. We typically follow up around 12 months after you receive the grant, and we will share the evaluation form and instructions if your application is successful.

What happens if our project changes after we receive a grant?

If your project changes, please contact us as soon as possible. Grants must be used for the purposes agreed as part of the application, and we may need to approve any material changes to activities, budget or timescales.

What if we are unable to spend all the grant within 12 months?

If you are unable to spend the grant within 12 months, please let us know as early as possible. We will discuss next steps with you, which may include agreeing a revised timescale or returning any unspent funds.

Can we publicly announce the grant or use the DWF Foundation logo?

If your application is successful and you would like to publicise the grant, please contact us first. We can provide any relevant wording and brand guidance, and confirm whether and how the DWF Foundation logo can be used.

Will you ask for a case study, story or photos?

We may invite funded charities to share a short case study about the project and its impact. If any photos or personal stories are shared, you must have appropriate consent in place and comply with your safeguarding and data protection obligations.

How often can I apply for a grant?

Charities receiving funding from us should allow 12 months to elapse from our last grant award before making a new application.

Unsuccessful applicants can reapply after 12 months has lapsed from receiving the notification of the unsuccessful outcome of the request.

If I have not returned the evaluation form, can I apply for another grant?

If you have previously received a grant from us, you must complete and return the evaluation form before we can consider a further application from your organisation. If you are having difficulty completing the form or require an extension, please contact the Foundation Manager as soon as possible.

What happens after an application is submitted?

After you submit your application, you will receive an on-screen notification confirming it has been submitted and you will be able to access your application after submission via the Plinth Portal. You will also be sent an email confirmation that your application has been received.

After your application has been acknowledged, you may not hear from us again until the outcome has been determined.

Can I apply for more than one project?

The Trustees will only consider one application per organisation.

Can I apply on behalf of an individual?

The Trustees will not consider applications for support from individuals. In order to be eligible for a grant you have to be a **registered charity**.

Do I need a DWF Staff reference on my application?

You do not need to include a DWF staff member as a reference. However, the Trustees do like to see projects where there is a link with DWF, where possible, as our people help to raise the funds we distribute.

If you do not have a DWF connection, you can still apply.

Who can be a reference on my application?

Your reference needs to be someone who is independent of your organisation (not a trustee or anyone involved in the running of the charity) who can talk about your work. For example someone from a partner agency or funder. It cannot be someone employed by you or a trustee.

Why do you need to know our DWF local office location?

As our people help raise the funds we distribute it's important that they are involved in the distribution of funding and local knowledge is important to our grant giving. We ask our local CSR committees to review bids we receive from their local area to help us make sure we get our funds to where it's needed and to the projects that our people want to see us supporting.

If successful, do I have to keep you updated on the outcome of the project?

From receiving the grant, you will have up to 12 months to spend the funds. We do have an evaluation form which we will share if you have been successful, and we follow up 12 months from you receiving the grant.

Do you have an appeals process?

We do not have an appeals process and the trustee's decision is final.

Can I get feedback if my application is refused?

Sadly due to the large number of applications we are now receiving we are unable to give feedback on your application.

We do run online sessions about "making an application" these are free and you can find the details and booking links [here](#)

Further information



Clare Beavan
Foundation Manager
M 0151 907 3000
E clare.beavan@dwf.law

If you have any questions regarding applying for a grant from the DWF Foundation please contact Clare.

The DWF Charitable Foundation
5 St Pauls Square
Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9AE

DWF Foundation FAQs Version April 2026