



Eight Funder Commitments

1. Don't waste time:

We will ensure that our guidelines are clearly stated on our website.

We will track patterns emerging in the applications that we are declining and will update our guidelines accordingly.

2. Ask the relevant questions:

For our Church & Communities and Older People & Housing programmes we use a two-stage application process – a short Expression of Interest to begin with, followed by a longer application form.

We speak to all applicants who are invited to submit a full application to gain a better understanding of their organisation and their proposal as part of our assessment process. We explain to all applicants at this stage how our decision-making works and how long a decision is expected to take.

Our Young People & Education programme takes a proactive approach to grant making, whereby Grant Programme Managers reach out directly to organisations they have researched and identified as experts in their field to discuss possible funding. For this programme area, we are explicit that this is the approach that we take.

For all our programmes, we will not ask for information that is publicly available where possible.

3. Accept risk

By looking at our grant portfolios as a whole, we take an approach that balances risks and benefits. This way we support a diverse range of grantees.

We are willing to be a first funder, support new concepts and pilot projects.

We are realistic and take steps to mitigate risk where possible, for example, we may attach certain conditions to our funding.

4. Act with urgency

For our Church & Communities and Older People & Housing programmes we review all Expressions of Interest generally within a maximum of 4 weeks of submission.

If an Expression of Interest is successful and an organisation is invited to submit a full application, we will discuss time pressures and urgency with the applicant, tailoring our approach accordingly.

Similarly for our Young People & Education programme, we discuss with applicants our timeframe upfront and how long a decision is expected to take.

We have regular Committee meetings throughout the year and all applicants are told at which Committee meeting their application will be considered. We communicate the decisions taken at these meetings in a timely manner.



5. Be open

We are transparent that our Church & Communities and Older People & Housing programmes are open for applications but that our Young People & Education programme takes a proactive approach.

We have published data about our current major grantmaking programmes on 360 Giving and update this after each round of funding.

We will better monitor applicant success rates. We will include data on success rates in our internal reporting and explore including this data in our guidelines.

We provide verbal feedback to all applicants who submit a full application.

6. Enable flexibility

We will continue to offer project, core, or unrestricted funding, recognising that our grantees are the experts and know what their organisation needs most. From April 2021, our Older People & Housing programme will offer unrestricted funding as default.

We are keen to have strong relationships with grantees and we encourage organisations to tell us should their needs and priorities change during the lifetime of their grant.

7. Communicate with purpose

We pride ourselves on being a relational funder. For all our programmes we set up kick-off meetings with all grantees so that expectations on both sides are clear from the outset.

We ask all grantees for feedback on us as part of our reporting process but we recognise that this is not sufficient, so we plan to run an anonymous survey, asking all applicants for feedback on our processes.

8. Be proportionate

Across all our programmes, we believe that our reporting is proportionate to the size of grant awarded. We share our report template and the timeframe for reporting at the time of award.

We will explore how we can be more flexible. We will consider how we can be more open to receiving reports that grantees have produced for other funders, and in other formats, such as films/videos.

We will continue to ground our reporting in learning and are committed to sharing this learning better.

For our Church & Communities and Older People & Housing programmes, we recognise that applicants are best placed to determine their own outcomes and delivery methods.

For our Young People & Education programme, there is an expectation that grantees will work with an external evaluator and as part of a cohort of funded organisations, but this is made clear from the outset.