

The Armed Forces Families Fund  
Supporting Partners  
Programme  
2023/24

# Programme Guidance



# Armed Forces Families Fund 2023/24: Supporting Partners

## PROGRAMME GUIDANCE

Under this programme, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust will award grants of between £30,000 and £80,000 towards projects of up to 2 years, which improve support for Service partners and spouses in enabling effective promotion of the skills and experiences they bring to the workplace, as well as understanding and mitigating the challenges for them as the whole family transitions to civilian life.

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## Why are we running this programme?

Under its Supporting Partners programme the Armed Forces Families Fund wishes to support projects which improve support for Service partners and spouses in enabling effective promotion of the skills and experiences they bring to the workplace, improving community cohesion and strengthening the military community, as well as understanding and mitigating the challenges for them as the whole family transitions to civilian life.

“Living in Our Shoes” and the UK Armed Forces Families Strategy recognise the importance of the family in supporting those that are serving. FAMCAS 2022 continues to report the “effect on my career” as the most negative aspect of Service life along with only two in ten spouses feeling positive about community support - down eight percentage points since its highest level in 2017. Living in Our Shoes included the MCN project as a case study, and recommended that:

*The Ministry of Defence..... develop greater understanding of what works best for which military partners/spouses, and foster collaboration and joined-up initiatives to enable better coordinated partner employment support across the nations of the UK.*

## About aims and needs



Your application must address one of the above aims and evidence a clear impact for partners of Serving personnel, or Reservists. The programme will fund ideas that are hands on leading to positive lasting impacts for partners of Serving personnel or Reservists based in the UK or overseas.




Applicants must clearly:

- Explain how their project is focused on meeting the needs of partners of Serving personnel, including partners of those serving in Reservist forces.
- Evidence the needs that partners are experiencing.
- Show how their proposed project will meet the needs identified.
- Show the likely impact that the project will have.

## What types of project are we looking for?

We are looking for projects that can be clear about the evidence of why their project is needed, and how the impact of the project will continue after the grant has ended.

Your application must be:

 <b>Targeted</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must focus specifically on partners of Serving personnel, or Reservists.</li><li>• The project must be delivered within two years or less.</li></ul>
 <b>Hands-on</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It must be a hands on, community support programme, education, training or qualification based or an extension of existing work.</li></ul>
 <b>Impactful</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your project must be able to show a clear change or improvement that will last beyond the length of your funding.</li></ul>

### Project ideas could include:

- Projects exploring ways of upskilling of partners of Serving Personnel or Reservists, including training, education and qualifications. (However, note that grants cannot be used for individual fees, bursaries or grants – see section below on what funds can and can't be spent on)
- Supporting partners to access paid employment or education particularly finding ways to connect more partners to existing support rather than creating new mechanisms.
- Communicating and celebrating the skills and experience that partners can and do bring to the workforce.
- Helping partners who are living overseas with their serving person to be able to better understand their rights and options regarding employment, training, and upskilling.

We will consider applications that tackle significant barriers that partners of Serving personnel, or Reservists face.

## Example

An Armed Forces Charity applies to work in partnership with a university on a project to help Serving partners and Reservists understand more about their rights, and to put information on housing, careers, and other important aspects of family life into new resources that makes information more accessible to partners of serving Armed Forces personnel. The project works specifically with Reservist partners and with partners who are not married to their serving person to ensure that the end resources produced by the project incorporates relevant information and resources for these groups.

The project is **targeted**, addressing needs of specific partners of Serving personnel and working with them to ensure that the result of the project meets their needs and addresses queries and challenges that they have experienced.

The project is **hands on**, provides clear education, training or qualifications.

The project has an **ongoing impact**, it works with partners to produce resources that will continue to be available for more partners of Serving personnel or Reservists after the project ends.

This programme will consider research projects that work with partners of serving personnel, or Reservists, to better understand the challenges that they face. Projects of this nature must have clear evidence of tangible outputs. They must also fit other parts of the programme guidance.

The programme will not fund general existing activities such as, fitness, craft, or music-based projects, coffee mornings, stay and play sessions, mental health support and counselling, and additional rollout of existing family support services.

Projects can be delivered in the UK or overseas. If a project is being delivered overseas, then the application must come from a UK Armed Forces base or Unit that is located overseas (see below for more information about eligibility to apply).

### Your application will need to show that:

- ✓ **Your project is needed and targeted:** You should be able to clearly explain how the need for this project has been identified and how you will target the people who have the greatest need for support including needs related to cost-of-living challenges.
- ✓ **It was developed with people from Armed Forces communities:** Show us how the idea for your project has been shaped by the people it will benefit.
- ✓ **It does not duplicate and is complementary to existing provision:** Please show us how your project fills a gap in support.
- ✓ **It will support longer-term change:** This means there should be a wider impact to your work, which will endure beyond the life of your grant. Your project should show that it offers a positive benefit to members of Armed Forces communities.

### **A good application will show:**

- How your project will address challenges experienced by partners of Serving personnel, or Reservists, in a targeted way.
- What needs partners have and how you have identified them, including how your project will meet these needs.
- What difference you are expecting for partners, and how you will know if your project has made a difference.
- How your proposal will be good value for money.
- How the impact of your programme will last beyond the project delivery.

We also need to be able to see that you have the skills and experience necessary to be able to carry out your project. You can work together with other organisations as part of your project. There is more information on working with others later in this guidance. It is important that the projects we award funding to complement one another, rather than duplicate provision. You'll be asked in your application form how you will ensure this.

### **Who will benefit?**

The direct and primary beneficiaries must be current non-serving partners of currently serving personnel or Reservists.




Indirect beneficiaries will be the serving partners, children and wider family members.

### **What do we mean by beneficiaries and how might they be calculated?**




- The project beneficiaries are those who will benefit from the project. They are the people whose circumstances are changed by implementing the idea. They can be affected directly or indirectly by the project.
- Direct beneficiaries refer to the individuals, groups, or organisations, which benefit directly from a project or activity.
- Indirect beneficiaries refer to other individuals, groups or organisations who are not the direct target of projects and activities but may be indirectly affected and benefited by the activities undertaken by direct beneficiaries.
- For example: An app is designed to help partners to access employment information. They are the direct beneficiary. The indirect beneficiary is the family, due to the increased wellbeing of the partner and economic situation of the family, if employment is successful.

Below is an example of how direct and indirect beneficiaries could be calculated:




Your project has 25 Veterans, they are the direct beneficiaries. They each have a family, with the average family size of 4, they are the indirect beneficiaries.

Number of direct beneficiaries	Average Household size	Total indirect beneficiaries
150	4	600
		

Your project has 25 direct beneficiaries. They each have 3 close friends or family members, they will be the indirect beneficiaries.

Number of direct beneficiaries	Average friend group	Total indirect beneficiaries
25	3	75
		

Your project involves families, therefore they are the direct beneficiaries. They are married to a serving member of the Armed Forces, and there are 100 of them, they are the indirect beneficiaries.

Number of direct beneficiaries	Serving personal	Total indirect beneficiaries
4	100	400
		

## Showing the change that your grant will make

We are looking for projects that can deliver sustainable changes. This means that we want to know what evidence you have to support the approach that you seek to take' and crucially; **how people from Armed Forces communities have helped to shape this.**

We also want to know what changes will take place because of your work. This means that we would like to know what will be different as a result in two to three years when your project ends; and why you think your work will achieve these improvements.

We want to fund projects with sustainable benefits. This means that we are interested in what will happen in the long term after your project has ended. There are different ways in which sustainable benefits can be achieved.

Some projects might have a clear plan to be able to finance future work through social investment, social business models or commissioning; once they have been able to run an effective pilot to see if a new approach does work.



### **Why is your project the best way to support people from Armed Forces communities with these needs?**

What exactly is the activity or service that you will be delivering?

How have you involved the people who would benefit in planning and shaping your project?

How do you know that people will take part?

How do you know that this does not duplicate other help that's available for these individuals?



### **What will the project achieve?**

What will be different by the end of the project?

What does this change look like?

What's the wider legacy, in terms of tangible improvements that the people benefiting from the project have gained, or ongoing collaborations that have been developed?

Some projects may focus on the legacy value for the people who take part in their projects; looking to address complex issues or engage in effective preventive work targeted at those who might be at risk of crisis. At the end of the funded project people who have taken part in these projects would be in a far stronger position than they were at the beginning of the project; and more able to live the life that they want to have. For these projects, it's important to have clear plans on how you will measure the impact of your work. All projects that are awarded funding can use the Trust's Impact Hub, which gathers impact data directly from people who use your projects. You can find out more about the Impact Hub [here](#)

Other projects might seek to build a long-term legacy through better collaboration between organisations to improve how people from Armed Forces communities access support now



and in the future. For projects like these, we would expect to see evidence of changes in practice and collaboration that extend beyond the life of the grant.

Some projects might look at the evidence they have developed about the needs of a specific group of people within the wider Armed Forces community; who have needs that might not be well understood; or who don't access services that are available. We would not expect to fund projects that focus solely on research; but we would be keen to understand the longer-term implications for your work if it could help to ensure that Armed Forces communities in future could have access to better support that meets their needs.

We will ask you about sustainability in the application form.

## **Types of sustainability: how will your work sustain beyond the life of your grant?**



### **Ongoing improvements for project beneficiaries**

Some projects may focus on the legacy value for the people who take part in their projects; looking to address complex issues or engage in effective preventive work targeted at those who might be at risk of crisis. At the end of the grant, people who have taken part in these projects would be in a far stronger position than they were at the beginning of the project; and more able to live the life that they want to have.




### **Accessing funding for ongoing delivery**

Some projects might be carrying out a pilot project or might be planning to keep running their project or service in future; raising funding from donations, grants or local commissioning



### **Ongoing partnership and collaboration**

Some projects might seek to build a long term legacy through better collaboration between organisations to improve how people from Armed Forces communities access support now and in the future. For projects like these, we would expect to see evidence of changes in practice and collaboration that extend beyond the life of the grant.



### **Improved knowledge and evidence**

Some projects might look at the evidence they have developed about the needs of a specific group of people within the wider Armed Forces community, who have needs that might not be well understood, or who don't access services that are available. This evidence base might help to ensure that Armed Forces communities in future could have access to better support that meets their needs.

## How much funding can you apply for?

You can apply for a grant of between £30,000 and £80,000 in total towards a project being delivered over a period of between one and two years. We anticipate that the majority of grants will be below £60,000.

## Ethics

Our work supports the Armed Forces Covenant through funding projects that deliver real change to Armed Forces communities. The projects we support need to be carried out to the highest possible ethical standards.

We therefore need to know that you have the skills and experience to work with the groups of people that your project focuses on; can ensure that they are kept safe; and that you take an ethical approach to your work.

Our ethical values are Respect, Competence, and Integrity.

We have a Code of Conduct; and free online training to explain our approach to ethics. We will ask you to confirm in your application form that you will run your project in line with our Code of Conduct. If your organisation has its own Code of Ethical Conduct; then you will need to explore whether your Code is compatible with ours; and tell us about this.

You can access our ethics resources [here](#).

## Our assessment criteria

Our criteria are set out below. We will consider each application to see how well it meets these criteria and fund those that we believe will best achieve the programme aims.

<b>The difference that your project is making</b>	
What are we looking for?	<p>That the project is addressing a specific need for partners of serving personnel and Reservists and that it will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be able to make a significant difference to people's lives</li><li>• Be able to show that the grant will have longer term sustainable benefits that will have ongoing legacy after the end of the grant</li></ul>
What do you need to show us?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What your project does</li><li>• How this would help specific Armed Forces communities</li><li>• How people from Armed Forces communities have shaped this project or service; and how you know that they will use it</li><li>• How many people this is likely to help, and what difference this will make</li><li>• What the long-term benefits will be?</li></ul>

<b>Delivery of your project</b>	
What are we looking for?	That you have the skills and experience to run your project; and that the approach to running your project would be likely to lead to the long-term legacy that you are seeking to have.
What do you need to show us?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● That your organisation is well run and well managed</li> <li>● That you'll be able to start your grant activity quickly</li> <li>● That you can keep people on your project safe</li> <li>● That your project will be delivered in line with our ethical values</li> <li>● Why your project offers good value for money.</li> <li>● Whether you will be working with others to achieve your aims, and how you will do this.</li> <li>● How you will measure the impact of your project</li> <li>● Your plans to ensure a long-term legacy of your work that will continue after the end of the grant</li> </ul>

## Which organisations are eligible to apply?

To be eligible for this funding, you must be one of the following:

- a registered Charity
- a Community Interest Company (CIC)
- an Armed Forces Unit or base
- a UK university

The following additional eligibility requirements also apply:

### **Charities**

Your organisation must have been registered in the UK (with one or more of the charity commissions for England and Wales, or Scotland or Northern Ireland for at least three years at the time of your application and able to provide published accounts for all three years if requested.

Your organisation must have a minimum of three unrelated trustees at the time of applying, and, if successful, throughout the life of your grant, and this must be always verifiable on the relevant charity regulator's website.

### **CICs**

Your organisation must have been registered in the UK for at least three years at the time of your application and able to provide published accounts for all three years if requested.

Your organisation must have a minimum of three unrelated directors at the time of applying, and, if successful, throughout the life of your grant, and this must be always verifiable on the Companies House website.

You will need to attach a copy of your most recent, full, accounts (that must include an income and expenditure statement as well as balance sheet – not just abbreviated accounts as submitted to Companies House) with your application form.

CICs will be subject to additional governance checks and may not be considered for funding if their Articles of Association do not have nominated beneficiary organisation/s in their Asset Lock clause. If this section in your articles is blank or ‘to be confirmed’ your application may not be regarded as eligible.

### **Armed Forces Units or Bases**

Your Unit or Base may be based in the UK or overseas.

Your main Point of Contact will ideally be an individual who will remain within the post for the duration of the project. We would expect Units that apply to have engaged with, and looking to work in partnership with external organisations who can provide specific services to meet the needs of the targeted group. These do not need to be Armed Forces specific organisations.

If your application is successful, we will require the authorisation of your CO/OC or equivalent when you accept the grant offer. This is to ensure that we have buy in for the project and commitment to its delivery.

### **The following restrictions may apply.**

- Applications may be declined from current Trust grant holders if the reporting requirements for existing grants from the Trust are not up to date.

## **Working with other organisations**

You can work with other organisations as part of your project. If any of the organisations that you will be working with will receive part of your grant, then you need to read our guidance below on delivery partners.

A delivery partner is an organisation which is either:

- receiving part of the grant OR
- their involvement in the project, through providing resources or some other means, is critical to the delivery of the project.

### **Role of the lead organisation**

The organisation that submits the application is the lead organisation. It will have legal responsibility for all funding we award and will be financially accountable for any funds that may be distributed by the lead organisation to delivery partners.

### **Delivery partnership agreements**

If we award you funding and you plan to work with one or more delivery partners, it will be a term and condition of your grant offer that you have a formal signed partnership agreement

with them. If you're successful, the draft delivery partnership agreement must be deemed to be compliant (with our terms and conditions) by us and finalised prior to any funding being released. We may request changes to the draft agreement before it's finalised. You can find guidance on what a delivery partnership agreement should include on our website.

## Preparing your project budget

### What can funds be spent on?

We can pay for most of the things you'll need for your project or activity, whether it is people's time, costs of delivering work online or buying/hiring equipment.

We understand that currently the real value of your income may have dropped due to inflationary pressures of running your organisation. You may have also found the rising cost of living has increased demand on your services. The Trust will consider applications that include a reasonable contribution to overhead/core costs. We would expect to see this reflected within your budget breakdown.

It is highly unlikely that we will fund projects with budgets that are dominated by capital costs. We would not expect to fund the costs of purchasing a vehicle, but we would pay for mileage costs on vehicles used by your staff and volunteers.

Your project might include the following costs.

- ✓ Staff time for this fixed-term project. This could be direct project work or for admin or to manage volunteers that may be involved in your project.
- ✓ Appropriate technical or other professional support linked to your project (such as the costs of developing a website). delivered through your project.
- ✓ Sessional staff or freelancers that you may need to run your project and activity.
- ✓ Reasonable travel costs including fares or mileage for project staff, volunteers or beneficiaries to enable participation in the project.
- ✓ Purchasing items that can enable activities to take place. This may include art materials; sports/games/outdoor equipment; supplies for breakfast or social hubs.
- ✓ Purchasing items that will help you to deliver your project, such as additional telephones or laptops.
- ✓ Reasonable costs for storing and transporting items, including wear and tear on private vehicles.
- ✓ Reasonable overheads, which reflect the cost to your organisation of delivering this project, taking account of recent cost increases.
- ✓ Evaluation costs.
- ✓ Research costs, any research proposal must contain a tangible output such as, reports or resources that will have a clear benefit for partners of Serving personnel, or Reservists.

## **What can't funds be spent on?**

There are several things **we can't pay for**, either because they're not in the spirit of the Fund, or because of relevant legislation or tax rules.

- × Where funding is not benefiting people from the Armed Forces community.
- × Projects that do not clearly meet the aims of the programme.
- × Where money only benefits one person. By this we mean where your whole project would only benefit one person.
- × Making grants or donations of money or items of value, paying fees, bursaries or living costs, or clearing debts, to individuals or families.
- × Repeat or regular projects that require a source of uncommitted funding.
- × Endowments (to provide a source of income).
- × Topping up existing grants and aid from a government department.
- × Investments.
- × Fundraising costs, including organising fundraising events and activities.
- × Paying for ongoing costs of existing partnership activity.
- × Projects, activities or services that the state has a legal obligation to provide.
- × Retrospective funding for projects that have already started or taken place.
- × Excessive management or professional fees or contingency costs.
- × Projects with budgets that are dominated by capital costs. We would not expect to fund the costs of purchasing a vehicle, for example.

This is not an exhaustive list as we feel it's more useful to focus on what you're trying to achieve and how you're going about this, than to issue long lists of eligible and ineligible costs.

Any grant that we award under this programme would be in line with our charitable objectives. As such, any grant that we award will be for non-economic activities only.

## **What financial information should you include in your application?**

The application form will ask you to give details of your project budget, so that we can understand the costs for which you are asking for funding towards. Whilst you can show this in categories (rather than, for example, listing every item of the IT equipment you require) we will need to have sufficient information to assure us that you have fully considered how much the work will cost and told us how you know this.

If we award you a grant, you will need to send us a full budget, and project milestones before we can pay the first instalment of your grant.

## Timetable

The deadline for applications will be 5pm on Thursday 25 January 2024. You will be informed about the outcome before the end of March 2024.

We would expect projects to begin between April and July 2024.

We cannot accept any late applications.

We highly recommend you plan to submit your application before the deadline to avoid the risk of missing the cut-off because of technological or other unexpected problems.

## How to apply - the application form

You need to apply using our online application form which you can [access through this link](#)

If you don't yet have an account for our online application portal, then you will need to create one. (You will need this anyway if you are successful in receiving a grant, so that you can submit reports and receive grant payments). On our system, you can save a draft application form to complete later or send a draft copy to colleagues. You can also access copies of the application that you've submitted at any time.

We strongly recommend that you complete your application in a Word document, save it locally as you work on it and when it is complete you then cut and paste the answers into the online form. You will find a Word document with a list of the project related questions on our website. Please don't use any formatting, such as tables or numbered lists, in your Word document, as the online form may not accept this formatting and you might have trouble submitting the form.

When you are entering data onto the online form, we suggest you save your form every 10-15 minutes whilst you are completing it, to avoid the risk of it 'timing out'.

You will be emailed when you both save and when you submit the application, please be aware of this when completing the application. We can only consider applications that have been fully submitted. Please check the "Submitted Applications" tab on your grant portal, to ensure the application has been fully submitted.

It's important that we can contact your organisation, particularly, of course, if you receive a grant. You will need to provide two contacts from your organisation on the application. At least one of these should have an email address that belongs to your organisation. At least one contact must hold the relevant authority (CEO/ CO or equivalent) to authorise any grant contract and bank account to be used should you be successful. The main contact must have an email address that belongs to your organisation. If this is not provided, your application may be considered ineligible.

Please think carefully about who these should be, as they will need to be able to sign acceptance of the grant and use of the bank account on the Offer Letter/ Terms and Conditions if your application is successful. If either contact changes, do let us know as soon as you can.

Do check that you have fully answered all the questions because, if not, we might not be able to consider your application.

If you are a CIC, please do ensure that you upload a copy of your most recent accounts and your governing document. Your application will not be complete without this. You do not need to send any additional information once the application has been submitted. Any additional information sent will not be considered.

If you are not a CIC do not submit any other documents with your form. Any other documents will not be considered.

You do not need to send any additional information once the application has been submitted. Any additional information received will not be considered unless specifically asked for by our assessors.

Do not send your application by email or post to the Covenant Fund Trust – only applications submitted via the online form can be considered.

You must also make sure that the Trustees/Directors/ senior staff within your organisation know that you are submitting this grant application.

## After you submit your application

You will get an automated email to confirm that your application has been submitted. This email will come from an address called [mailuk@grantapplication.com](mailto:mailuk@grantapplication.com). You may wish to add this email to a safe senders list on your email system to ensure that it can come through to you.

**If you have not received this email, then your application was not submitted successfully. Please log back into the portal to submit it.**

We will check your application to ensure that you've provided all the information we have requested. During our assessment we very occasionally contact applicants to ask for clarification, or specific questions about the organisation. This will only be if there are answers in your application form which are unclear or left blank. We will only contact you at this stage if we believe this will make a material difference to the decision about your application. If we ask you to do this, you'll need to send us this information within five working days. Please do not assume any contact or lack of contact is an indication of your likelihood of being successful or declined.

We will review the information you provide in your application and, where relevant, data and information from the Charity Commission, Companies House or other regulators' websites relating to your constitution and recent audited accounts. We may also look at other publicly available sources such as your organisation's website and social media activity.



After submitting your application, you must advise the Trust of any significant changes in your organisation, its governance or finances which might impact on our consideration of your application.

We will assess your application against the key criteria of the programme.

## Checks we may carry out on your organisation

We may carry out several checks on the information you provide us with and about your organisation. This is to make sure that the information is correct and there are no significant risks we can identify when awarding grants.

These may include checks:

- on whether financial information on your application form matches that held by your regulatory body (Companies House, Charity Commission etc.)
- that we can see that you have a minimum of three unrelated Directors or Trustees listed on your regulator's website.
- that your governing documents (such as constitutions and memorandum and articles of association) are up to date, correct and properly signed.
- on your accounts that are accessible through regulatory bodies
- on any identified concerns about a person named as a contact or who has a position within your organisation
- that the signatories are valid and well informed about the project
- on your annual report and on your website/social media activity that your organisation is undertaking the activities as described in your application.
- To ensure you are up to date on all reporting with any active grants you hold with the Trust.
- If your organisation is a branch of a larger organisation (such as charities with regional branches or offices), as part of our due diligence checks we may be sharing key details of the application with your head office to confirm eligibility to apply for this funding.
- If you are awarded a grant, that your organisational name and address on your bank statement are consistent with the details you've provided in any completed form or the information that's held elsewhere in the public domain.
- If you are awarded a grant, that your bank statement shows that your account is being managed in line with your own financial procedures and our programme requirements.

## Decisions and what happens next

Final decisions will be made by the Board of Trustees, who will review the applications, using balancing criteria in addition to the key criteria. The balancing criteria include the relative strength and value for money of the project when viewed as part of a national portfolio of projects.

Funds are limited. Therefore, the Board will use their discretion to choose which projects to fund, ensuring a good spread of funded projects and to differentiate between projects that are considered fundable.

Please note that to minimise the risk to public funds the Trust may prioritise funding those applicants which have good track records on reporting to regulators, demonstrate transparent and appropriate governance arrangements and have comprehensive published accounts. For organisations which previously had grants from us, we expect all reporting on these grants to be up-to-date and may consider this when considering new applications.

Trustees may also take the decision to part-fund proposals. This may mean you are awarded less money than was applied for. If this is the case, we will talk to you about what elements of the project were supported and why and discuss this with you.

After the Trustees have met, we will send an email to you using the primary contact email address you provided in your application. This will tell you whether you' have been awarded a grant.

Our programmes are often oversubscribed and, unfortunately, we often have to turn good applications down due to lack of available funding. If you have been unsuccessful, we will email you to tell you.

## What happens next if we award you a grant?

If we plan to fund your project, you'll need to accept our grant offer and the terms & conditions of the grant **within four weeks of receiving the Offer Letter** or risk the offer lapsing.

Our [terms and conditions of grant](#) can be accessed on our website. If we offer you a grant, you will need to confirm that you will follow these terms and conditions of grant before we can release any of your grant to you.

We will email you in the first instance to advise you that you have been successful. This email will give you full instructions of what you need to do next to receive your official offer letter, how to accept the grant and what documents you need to provide.

If we offer you a grant, we may invite you to come to a briefing session for new grant holders; and we'll send you the dates for these. The briefing will be held online and explains the next stages of your grant. Alternatively, we may request a virtual meeting with you to provide you with further information and answer any questions you may have.

Your formal Offer Letter and Terms and Conditions will be sent to you after the briefing or meeting. We won't be able to pay your grant until these documents have been signed.

Once we have all the necessary documents back, we will pay the first instalment of your grant. If there are any discrepancies/queries within these documents, this will delay your payment, so please read the accompanying information we provide, thoroughly. Grants will be paid in instalments, and the number and size of these will depend on the size and duration of the grant. A small proportion of the total amount awarded will be retained pending a satisfactory End of Grant report.

If you receive a grant, you will need to keep good records of how the funds were spent and how many people you helped and how. As part of the Terms and Conditions of funding we will ask you to update us on the progress of the project, this will include detailing how the funding has been spent.

We may also expect you to take part in evaluations, impact studies or other research related to the funding you have received. We will let you know what is required and how to participate.

The Trust has a Privacy Policy which explains what data we collect from our grant applicants, and how we use this. Please read this in advance of applying:

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/privacy-policy/>

If you have any questions relating to this programme, please look at the programme information that we have on our website.

Following this, if you still have queries and cannot find the answer in these guidance notes, please email [info@covenantfund.org.uk](mailto:info@covenantfund.org.uk)