



**THE ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT FUND TRUST**



# **POSITIVE PATHWAYS**

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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# Introduction

This programme will award grants to charities or Community Interest Companies (CICs) working with Armed Forces veterans who need support to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

We will make grants to projects where we can see that the project is addressing a clear need. We will fund activities for veterans that organisations are already undertaking, as well as new projects.

**This document sets out answers to a number of questions you may have regarding this programme. You should read this document alongside our programme guidance.**

If the question you have is not answered within this document, please email [positivepathways@armedforcesfunding.org.uk](mailto:positivepathways@armedforcesfunding.org.uk)



**Armed Forces Charities:** registered charities that specifically provide support to beneficiaries from the Armed Forces community.

**Armed Forces CIC:** a Community Interest Company that specifically seeks to achieve social objectives for members of the Armed Forces Community .

**Veteran:** anyone who has served for at least one day in Her Majesty's Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations.

**Pathways of support:** by this we mean different types of projects or services which, when linked together, can provide veterans with a seamless route of care and support to help them address mental health needs, and recover in a way that is appropriate for them.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. We are not an Armed Forces specific charity and we have been running a successful project supporting veterans. Can we apply for funding to continue our project?**

Yes. You will need to show us to our satisfaction within your application that you have recently (within the last two years) delivered substantial projects or programmes of work specifically supporting veterans. We will look at public information about your organisation, such as your annual report for evidence that your organisation has delivered substantial existing work to support veterans.

**Q. We are not an Armed Forces charity. We have a good idea to support veterans. Can we apply?**

Some non- Armed Forces charities and CICs have strong experience in running existing substantial projects that support the Armed Forces community. These organisations are eligible to apply but must prove their existing experience to our satisfaction.

If you do not have existing substantial experience in delivering a veteran specific project, then you will need to partner with an Armed Forces charity or CIC.

We do encourage organisations to work together to give the best possible outcomes, and we would accept a bid from an Armed Forces charity that was working with you. The Armed Forces charity would need to be the lead applicant.

**Q. Can local authorities apply?**

No. We cannot accept applications to this programme from local authorities, NHS Trusts, schools or other statutory organisations.

**Q. How can I work with another CIC or charity if my organisation is ineligible to apply?**

We advise that an agreed memorandum of understanding, partnership agreement or equivalent should be established, where you might choose to work with an Armed Forces charity to deliver your project.

You may seek advice from our Strategic Partners. If you are awarded a grant you will need an appropriate partnership agreement.

**Q. Our organisation currently helps veterans with advice services only, can we apply to run activities even though we have currently not done so?**

You will need to be able to show us that you are clearly running an activity in line with our guidance. You will also need to show us that you are confident that veterans want to take part in the activity that you are proposing.

**Q. Our organisation supports elderly people but has not run anything specifically for veterans. Can we apply for money to run veterans' programmes?**

No. We will not make awards from this Fund to organisations which do not have a track record of working with veterans, and only to charities or CICs which have members of the Armed Forces community as their primary or main beneficiaries.

**Q Do we need to have veterans involved in running our organisation**

Not necessarily, but we would expect to see that veterans have been involved in consultation and planning and, ideally, in delivering the programme of work.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q. How do you define a veteran?**

Anyone who has served for at least one day in Her Majesty's Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations.

## **Q. Can we include veterans' families in our project or run projects just for veterans' families?**

The main focus of the programme of work should be the veterans' themselves. This programme will not fund projects solely focused on veterans' families. We will consider projects that include families in part of the project.

## **Q. What do you mean by referrals/pathways**

By this we mean different types of projects or services, which when linked together, can provide veterans with a seamless route of care and support to help them address mental health needs, and recover in a way that is appropriate for them. Please see our guidance for more information.

## **Q. We run an employability programme – can we apply for a grant**

We are unlikely to fund projects that are solely related to employability as this programme is focussed on supporting veterans who have mental health issues to improve their overall wellbeing. This is not a programme specifically about veteran employability; though we recognise that some of the skills that veterans may develop could be relevant to employment. The focus of projects should, however, be on improved mental wellbeing.

## **Q. We want to run a project for 18 months – how much should we apply for?**

We are expecting to fund projects that run for one year – this might include your planning period. We do not expect to fund projects that do not fit this timescale.

## **Q. I'm a veteran, and I have a great idea for a project. I've discussed this with other veterans, and know there is a good demand for it, and it will make a difference.**

You need to be an Armed Forces charity or CIC to be able to apply for funding for this programme. You might be able to work with an Armed Forces charity or CIC to develop your idea.

There is a [directory of Armed Forces Charities](#) on the Cobseo website.

## **Q. Our work is already connected into a wider care pathway. Do we still need to work with organisations under the Strategic Pathways Programme?**

Yes, we would still like your project to engage with this support; and work out what support might add additional benefits to your projects, and to the veterans you are supporting.

## **Q. I need less than £35K to run my project. Why can't I apply for less?**

We've set the funding at this level as we think that this is the right size of project to offer a good level of benefit to veterans, and potentially connect into a wider pathway of care.

Visit our website for other possible funding opportunities.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. My project could really do with more than £35K. Why can't I apply for more?**

This programme offers a fixed amount of funding per project. In the consultation, people felt it was important to support lots of smaller projects. This gives veterans more choice.

**Q. What can the Strategic Partners do to help successful applicants?**

There are six Strategic Partners who are able to support you with your project, should your application be successful. The full list of partners is listed on our website and in the Positive Pathways programme guidance document.

The partners can support you with the following aspects.

- Support with using the Impact Hub.
- Mentoring and guidance.
- Providing national and local connections to enhance collaboration, recovery and referral pathways.
- Sharing sector learning and knowledge.
- Supporting project delivery.
- Advising on sustainability.

**Q. Can I hire an extra member of staff to deliver the project?**

Yes, you can include the costs of salaries or fees in the application.

**Q. Do I have to use the Impact Hub when our organisation already measures impact?**

You need to measure the impact of your project. You can measure impact using the Wellbeing Index within the Hub; or speak with us about using a different measurement tool that you are already using, if the Hub is not suitable for your needs. The Impact Hub works on consent. It's up to individual veterans whether they would like to answer the questions; and if they would prefer not to then this must not impact on their ability to access your project.

# About us

The Armed Forces Covenant Trust manages the grant programmes funded by the Covenant Fund.

We also run wider funding programmes that support the Armed Forces community.

You can find out more about our work at [www.covenantfund.org.uk](http://www.covenantfund.org.uk)



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