



 THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST



Sustaining Support to Armed Forces Communities

Frequently Asked Questions

Sustaining Support for Armed Forces Communities

FAQs

Who is eligible for this programme?

To be eligible for this funding, you must be either:

- a UK based registered charity that specifically supports Armed Forces communities that has been registered for at least three years at the time of your application

or

- a UK based registered charity with substantial recent experience of supporting Armed Forces communities that has been registered for at least three years at the time of your application.

There is more information on eligibility in the programme guidance.

What do we mean by an Armed Forces charity?

There is information in the programme guidance. By *Armed Forces charity* we mean that your charitable objectives clearly state that you support people from Armed Forces communities. This can include serving personnel and/or their families or veterans and/or their families.

Why can I only apply to one of the Funding Tracks?

We are anticipating a high level of applications to this programme. If you are not specifically an Armed Forces charity, you can apply to the Project Funding Track only. If you meet the eligibility criteria in the programme guidance of being an Armed Forces charity, then you can choose the Funding Track that is most appropriate for your needs.

Can I apply for more funding under one Track than the other?

Both Funding Tracks have an upper application limit of £100,000.

Can you advise me of which Funding Track to apply under?

If your organisation is eligible for the Core Funding Track, then it is up to your organisation to decide which Funding Track to apply under. We would expect you to involve your senior management and Trustees in this decision.

Is the overall programme budget split between the two Funding Tracks?

The programme has a budget of £6 million and will be distributed according to the quality of applications received. The Trust will make grants under both Funding Tracks for grants of up to £50,000 and grants of up to £100,000. **Please apply to the Funding Track that best meets your needs as an organisation** if you are eligible for both Tracks. This programme is likely to be oversubscribed. Applications will be assessed against the programme criteria; and decisions will be made by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trustees.

What happens if I apply under both Funding Tracks?

Both applications will be deemed ineligible, and you will be notified that you will not proceed to a full assessment.

What happens if I submit more than one application for funding under a single Funding Track?

All applications to the programme from your organisation will be deemed ineligible and you be notified that you will not proceed to a full assessment.

We need funding to keep running our support service for veterans. We've run this for a long time, but we are not an Armed Forces specific charity. Can we apply under the project track?

Activities, projects and services can all be supported under the Project Funding Track. Your organisation may have been delivering a specific service to Armed Forces communities for a considerable period of time. Providing that it meets the other criteria in the programme guidance, an activity, project or service for Armed Forces communities that is established over a number of years, is eligible.

We've worked with veterans for a long time, but our charitable objects don't specifically mention that we work with Armed Forces communities. Can we apply under the Core Funding Track?

Your organisation is not eligible for the Core Funding Track unless there is a clear, specific and direct reference to Armed Forces communities in your organisation's objects. We will check this.

We'd like to apply under to the Project Funding Track for our service which helps veterans, but also helps other people locally. Is this possible?

If you are applying under the Project Funding Track, and your organisation works with a range of communities (including Armed Forces communities), then you can only apply for your activity, project or service that works directly with Armed Forces communities, and not with the wider local community.

Why is funding only available for one year?

This is a programme designed to provide short term help to enable services that are important to Armed Forces communities to be able to continue.

Our most pressing need is to hire a fundraiser. Why can't we do this?

This is a programme designed to provide short term help to enable services that are important to Armed Forces communities to be able to continue. We will fund project and activity costs under the Project Funding Track. Under the Core Funding Track, we will fund posts that enable the charity to deliver valued services to Armed Forces communities. We can also pay for activities that can help the charity's future under the transformational section of the Core Funding Track guidance.

The funding we are seeking is to keep funding a project worker and to have some support for transformational activities. Which Funding Track do I apply under?

Funding for transformational activities is only available under the Core Funding Track. If your organisation is eligible for the Core Funding Track, then this is the route for you to consider if you need help with transformational activities. There is more information in the programme guidance.

Will we get feedback if we are not successful, and can we reapply?

It is likely that we will receive more applications than we can support and that, sadly, not all good applications will be successful. We will offer feedback to you by means of providing your assessment report if you are not successful.

You can only make a single funding application to a single Funding Track under this programme. There is no opportunity to reapply. You should put in the best application that you can and apply for the later round if you don't think that you are ready to apply to the first round.

Our organisation has really suffered financially due to the Covid Pandemic; however, this will be reflected in our accounts which have not yet been published. How can we tell you about the impact that Covid has had on our charity?

It is really important that you tell us in your application about the impact that Covid has had on your organisation and its finances. There is space in the application form to do this. You could also tell us about the impact that Covid has had on your organisation in the letter from your Chair, Treasurer or Chief Executive.

Our accounts show that we have significant assets, but these are intended for important future use, or cannot be easily liquidated. We know that the programme will be competitive, should we still apply?

If you are eligible for this funding programme - if Covid has had a significant impact on your finances - and if you need help in the short term to continue to provide valued services to veterans, then you should consider applying. If you have significant assets, please do tell us in your application why these could not be used at this time. There is more information in our guidance.

We are a CIC and do good work. Why can't we apply?

We are expecting this programme to be significantly oversubscribed and have had to make some difficult decisions. CICs are, however, able to apply to the *Force for Change programme* if they meet the eligibility criteria for that programme. More information on this programme and other programmes we currently have open, can be found on our website at: <https://covenantfund.org.uk/programmes/>

What do you mean by 'transformational work'?

This is work that can help make your organisation stronger in future; so that you will be in a better position to keep delivering services and support to Armed Forces communities. There is more information in our guidance.

Our organisation has suffered due to Covid, but although we support the Armed Forces community, we are not specifically an Armed Forces charity – why can't we apply for core funding?

If your charity delivers existing work for Armed Forces communities, then you can apply to the Project Funding Track to support the delivery of this work if it is at risk due to the impact that Covid has had on your organisation's finances. Only charities whose governing document specifies support for Armed Forces communities can apply to the Core Funding Track.

We are an Armed Forces charity and are looking to apply under the Core Funding Track. We need help with salary costs for two key members of staff. Does one of the members of staff have to deliver transformational work?

Through the Core Funding Track, you can apply for funding that supports the delivery of existing work that you are doing with Armed Forces communities. You do not have to deliver transformational work as part of your work.

We have seen new needs emerging in Armed Forces communities as a result of the Covid pandemic. Can we receive funding to meet these new needs?

No. This programme will provide short term funding for projects, activities or services that are currently used by Armed Forces communities, where there is a risk that these services are under threat because of the impact of the Covid pandemic on charities that support Armed Forces communities.