



# The Armed Forces Covenant Fund **Tackling Loneliness Programme**

*Tackling social isolation in the  
Armed Forces community*

# **The Armed Forces Covenant Fund: Tackling Loneliness Programme**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Under this programme, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (the Trust) will award fixed grants of £70,000 towards projects which aim to reduce loneliness and isolation in Armed Forces communities.**

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### **Does our project need to focus only on the groups of beneficiaries listed in the programme guidance?**

Your proposed project should focus on working with one or more of our identified target groups. This is because these groups of people have been identified as being harder to reach within the Armed Forces community. While your project may work with other beneficiaries too, successful applications will prioritise at least one of our identified groups as their main beneficiaries.

### **My organisation provides counselling / advice services, am I eligible?**

This programme has a strong focus on engagement in activities, building confidence in harder to reach groups within the Armed Forces community and encouraging them to take part in provision and accessing opportunities available to them.

Services which place beneficiaries in a less participatory role, such as through therapy, advocacy, support and advice, will not be supported through this programme.

### **Can I apply for more than one project?**

Organisations may make more than one application, for example for projects in different locations; but each project must be distinct, and projects should not be interdependent on each other. Decisions regarding funding will be a competitive process and Trustees will want to ensure a variety of activities across the UK.

### **Our project is due to begin before the end of February 2021, can we still apply?**

Unfortunately, we cannot fund anything retrospectively. This means you cannot receive funding for anything that has taken place prior to receipt of an offer of funding from the Trust. No funding is guaranteed and so we recommend you plan to begin your funded project after a decision has been made.

**We require a different amount of funding than the £70,000 fixed grants available, should we still apply?**

This programme will only award fixed grants of £70,000 for projects lasting up to two years. This is a tested grant making process used successfully for our Positive Pathways programme, introduced to help applicants by steering them towards the amount of funding we think is needed to fund a really great, successful project. If you require less funding, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund: Force for Change programme might suit your project. That programme will award small grants of up to £20,000 for project that tackle social isolation. More information can be found on our website.

**My organisation isn't specifically an Armed Forces organisation, can we still apply?**

Though we don't require organisations to specifically be an Armed Forces charity or CIC, we do require you to have evidence of substantial, recent experience of working with the Armed Forces community.

**What do you mean by emotional resilience, as stated in the programme guidance?**

One of the outcomes we'd like projects supported by this programme to achieve is for their beneficiaries to develop their confidence and ability to recognise the signs of loneliness, know how to act upon those signs and ultimately play a part in their own self development.

**How will the Tackling Social Isolation grant holders support me?**

A small number of experienced support organisations will be awarded funding under our Tackling Social Isolation programme, to specifically offer support to projects funded under the Tackling Loneliness programme, after 1 April 2021.

If you receive an award under this programme, you'll be asked to work with one of the Tackling Social Isolation programme organisations once you begin delivery, in a way that is most relevant to your project.

This could be planning for sustainability of your work, helping you work more collaboratively, support with managing your project or helping with referral of beneficiaries with more complex needs.

We've adopted this way of working as it has worked so successfully with our Positive Pathways programme grant holders.

**What is the benefit of being featured on the Trust's app?**

The Trust's app is a great new way of reaching potential beneficiaries in your area. As a Tackling Loneliness programme grant holder, you can choose to be listed among our other funded projects, for the Armed Forces community to search for and access. The app will be free for both projects and beneficiaries to use. It also helps people find out more about the work that we have supported.