

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund

FORCE FOR CHANGE PROGRAMME



Frequently Asked Questions



Force for Change Questions and Answers

Can my organisation apply for more than one grant?

You can apply for more than one grant under this programme. Your applications should, however, be for stand alone activities that are not dependent on each application being successful. There is likely to be competition for funds, so Trustees may not wish to make more than one grant to each organisation.

We've had a previous grant under Force for Change. Can I apply for an extension?

Under this programme we will consider funding existing projects if they are in line with our guidance and there is a clear need for them. This could include a project that we had supported previously.

Can we apply for a project that will take less than a year to complete?

Yes, we can support projects that take place over a shorter period of time. You should show us in your application that the project will make a difference to Armed Forces communities.

Last year we could apply for £20,000 under this funding programme. Why is it less this year?

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on Armed Forces communities and the organisations that support them. By awarding grants of up to £10,000 we will be able to support more projects supporting Armed Forces communities throughout the UK.

My organisation is a CIC. Why do we need to send you a copy of our accounts?

Organisations which are registered charities have their accounts available online through charity regulators. We are asking CICs to provide us with a copy of their most recent accounts when applying so that we can have consistency in our approach. Please upload a copy of your most recent accounts to your application form.

We are a school. What information do we need to give about our children from serving families?

We make grants that support Armed Forces communities. If you are applying from a school, we will need to see how your project will support children from Armed Forces families (and their wider families if appropriate). Please tell us what proportion of

students at your school are from Armed Forces families. You can also tell us about any other factors that might be relevant to why your project is needed, such as families having a parent on deployment, or Armed Forces families living in isolated rural areas.

Can we apply for a project that takes more than a year to complete?

No, under this programme we will support projects that can be completed in a year or less; though we understand that there may be lasting benefits to your work after you have used the grant funds, such as more people volunteering.

We've got a great idea for a project, do we really have to start within a month of being awarded the grant?

Yes, you will need to be able to start your project quickly if we award you a grant, so that your grant can start to make a difference to local Armed Forces communities. Do remember though, that there are three funding rounds for this programme in 2021/22; so you could apply for a later funding round if you need more time to develop your idea.

Can I apply for a grant if I've had funding from the Covenant Fund: Local Grants programme?

Yes, but you need to be sure that your project meets the aims of the Force for Change programme. We will look at any grants that you've had with us before, so please make sure that you are up-to-date on any reporting before you apply for a new grant.

Can I reapply to a later deadline if I am unsuccessful in the first or second round?

Yes, but do be aware of the cut off dates for later rounds. These are in our guidance.

What do you mean by local?

We mean that the people who benefit from your projects should be clearly identifiable and would live within a broadly definable geographic area.

Can I apply for a project where some aspects would be delivered digitally?

Yes, you can, providing that it meets the aims of the programme and we can clearly see who the beneficiaries would be and why they would like this project to take place.

We'd like a grant to start working with people from Armed Forces communities. Can we apply through this programme?

We need to see that your organisation has previous experience of working with people from Armed Forces communities and that they have actively participated in shaping the project.

Can our project focus on developing good relations between Armed Forces and local civilian communities?

We are keen to support projects that encourage people from Armed Forces communities to play a stronger role in their local communities. We can fund projects that bring Armed Forces and people within the local area together, but we will only fund these projects where we can see that there are clear benefits to people from Armed Forces communities, particularly in helping to reduce isolation.

We are a local authority. Can we apply for a grant that continues some of the work we were doing through our Strengthening Delivery of the Covenant work?

Yes, providing that it includes direct delivery to people from Armed Forces communities, and that it meets the aims of the Force for Change programme.

We are a school that sits within an Academy Trust, am I still eligible to apply?

Schools that are run by Academy Trusts are eligible to apply, but the umbrella Trust itself is ineligible unless it is a registered charity. Academy Trusts that are exempt charities are not eligible to apply. These institutions are not registered or directly regulated by the Charity Commission.

We are a college/university - are we eligible to apply?

Colleges and universities are not eligible for this programme.

We are a playgroup/nursery are we eligible to apply?

Only if you are a registered charity or CIC that meets the eligibility requirements in our guidance.

We are a church – can we apply?

If your church (or other religious organisation) is a registered charity, it is eligible. It may be that your church's local management team, or perhaps its youth club, or

playgroup, or the group that organises arts or social events in the church, has registered as a charity or CIC, in which case they can apply.

We are newly registered CIC or charity but have been working to support the Armed Forces Community for a while, are we eligible to apply?

You must have been a registered CIC or charity for at least one year at the time of your application and have at least one set of published accounts.

Can we apply for commemoration activities/events such as Remembrance Day?

Events may be funded, but only where they are clearly part of a wider project that meets the aims of the Force for Change programme.