



 THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST



Sustaining Support to Armed Forces Communities

Programme Guidance

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund: Sustaining Support for Armed Forces Communities

OVERVIEW GUIDANCE

***Please note, this guidance document was updated In June 2021 to provide further clarity. Please see page 6 for full details. ***

You will need to read this guidance in conjunction with the specific guidance for the Funding Track that is the best fit for your organisation – either the Core Funding Track or the Project Funding Track

Under this programme, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (the Trust) will award grants of up to £100,000 to either support:

- **successful existing charitable projects that give help to Armed Forces communities,**

or

- **Armed Forces charities with core costs, such as salaries which need short term support to continue, as a result of the impact of Covid on charitable income.**

Why are we running this programme?

The Covid pandemic has had a profound impact on the lives of veterans, Armed Forces families and serving personnel; and on the charities that support them. Charities have reported that demand for support has increased, needs of beneficiaries may have become more complex or more difficult to meet, and sources of income, whether donated, earned or awarded in grants has at best dropped and at worst dried up, at least, in the short term.

This programme aims to support Armed Forces communities by providing short term funding of up to one year to enable charities to keep delivering projects and services they use and value.

Armed Forces charities, and charities that have an existing track record of providing significant support for Armed Forces communities, can apply for a grant of up to £100,000 for up to one year.

Organisations applying for a grant will need to show they provide support to people from Armed Forces communities, and that it would have a negative effect, particularly on veterans and Armed Forces families, if this had to end, due to lack of funds. Support for core costs will be available for dedicated Armed Forces charities.

We expect demand for this programme to be extremely high. There are choices for organisations, of different types of grant. Please read and consider this guidance carefully.

Which organisations are eligible to apply?

To be eligible for this funding, you must be:

- a 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 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.

Definitions:

Specifically supporting Armed Forces communities means that your charitable objectives clearly state that you support people from Armed Forces communities. We refer to these types of organisations as Armed Forces charities within this guidance.

Substantial recent experience of supporting Armed Forces communities means that either the governing documents of your organisation state that you specifically work with people from Armed Forces communities, or that you can show that working with veterans, Armed Forces families or serving personnel is and has been a significant and regular part of your existing work.

You **cannot** apply if you are any of the following.

- A Community Interest Company (CIC).
- An Armed Forces base or unit.
- A school.
- A local authority.
- An individual.
- A charity which does not have substantial, recent experience of supporting Armed Forces communities.
- A charity which is newly registered.
- Other public sector organisations.
- A voluntary or community group which is not a charity registered in the UK.

If you are a CIC, Armed Forces Base or Unit or a school, and you are working with people from Armed Forces communities, you might want to consider applying for a grant of up to £10,000 through the Force for Change programme.

What types of funding can you apply for under this programme?

We will fund a wide range of projects under this programme, providing that we can see that this funding is needed and will enable projects or services that benefit Armed Forces communities.

There are two Funding Tracks to the programme - you can only apply to one of these: either the Core Funding Track or the Project Funding Track.

Core Funding Track

Only Armed Forces charities can apply for a grant to support their **Core Costs** where this will make a significant difference to their ability to support Armed Forces communities at this time. However, to be eligible for this track, there must be a direct reference to supporting Armed Forces communities in your organisation's governing document. This route may be an option for your organisation if receiving funding for some key posts would help you to keep delivering services and support to Armed Forces communities at this time.

Under the Core Funding Track, we may consider supporting you to change parts of how you work to make your service more sustainable in future. This could include greater support for volunteers or better use of technology. It might include exploring or undertaking restructuring, business re-engineering, relocation or merging, as well as keeping the current services operating in the short term.

Project Funding Track

Funding is also available for **Project Costs**. This track is available for all eligible organisations under this programme. Under this route, you can apply for funding for direct costs involved in running projects, activities or services. This might include the costs of staff or sessional workers who plan and deliver work directly to Armed Forces communities. You cannot request support from this programme to set up a new project or service delivering support to Armed Forces communities. **This programme will support existing work only** and it is fine if your project has been running for a long time or is a significant area of your work.

Important Information

- 1) You can only apply under one Funding Track.** If you are an Armed Forces charity, you will need to choose the Funding Track that is the best fit for your organisation, the Armed Forces communities that you support and particular challenges that you have at this time. We would expect you to discuss this application at a senior level in your organisation and involve your Trustees where appropriate. Please note that there are different application forms for each Funding Track.
- 2) If you apply for more than one Funding Track, your applications for both Funding Tracks will be deemed ineligible.**
- 3) You can only apply once.** You cannot resubmit your application if you are unsuccessful.

Sustaining Support for Armed Forces Communities

Applicant chooses whether they are asking for Core or Project based funding.
One grant per organisation. Dependent branches excluded. Grants in 2 bands, up to £50,000 and up to £100,000. Funding for up to 1 year.

Can only apply under one Funding Track. First funding decisions in September 2021.



Core Funding Track

Providing support to Armed Forces charities most impacted by Covid to enable them to keep running services

- Reviewed by more experienced assessors
- Funding for a maximum of 2 posts
- Can fund other reasonable costs needed by organisation
- Organisation makes the case as to why this is most helpful to them, and how these posts were normally funded
- Organisation describes why having these posts funded enables them to continue to run services for Armed Forces communities
- This route is only available for Armed Forces charities

Impact/ Success measures

- Sustainability of access to services
- Range of services supported
- Any relevant organisational transformation (more volunteers/digital delivery/more joined up local working)



Project Funding Track

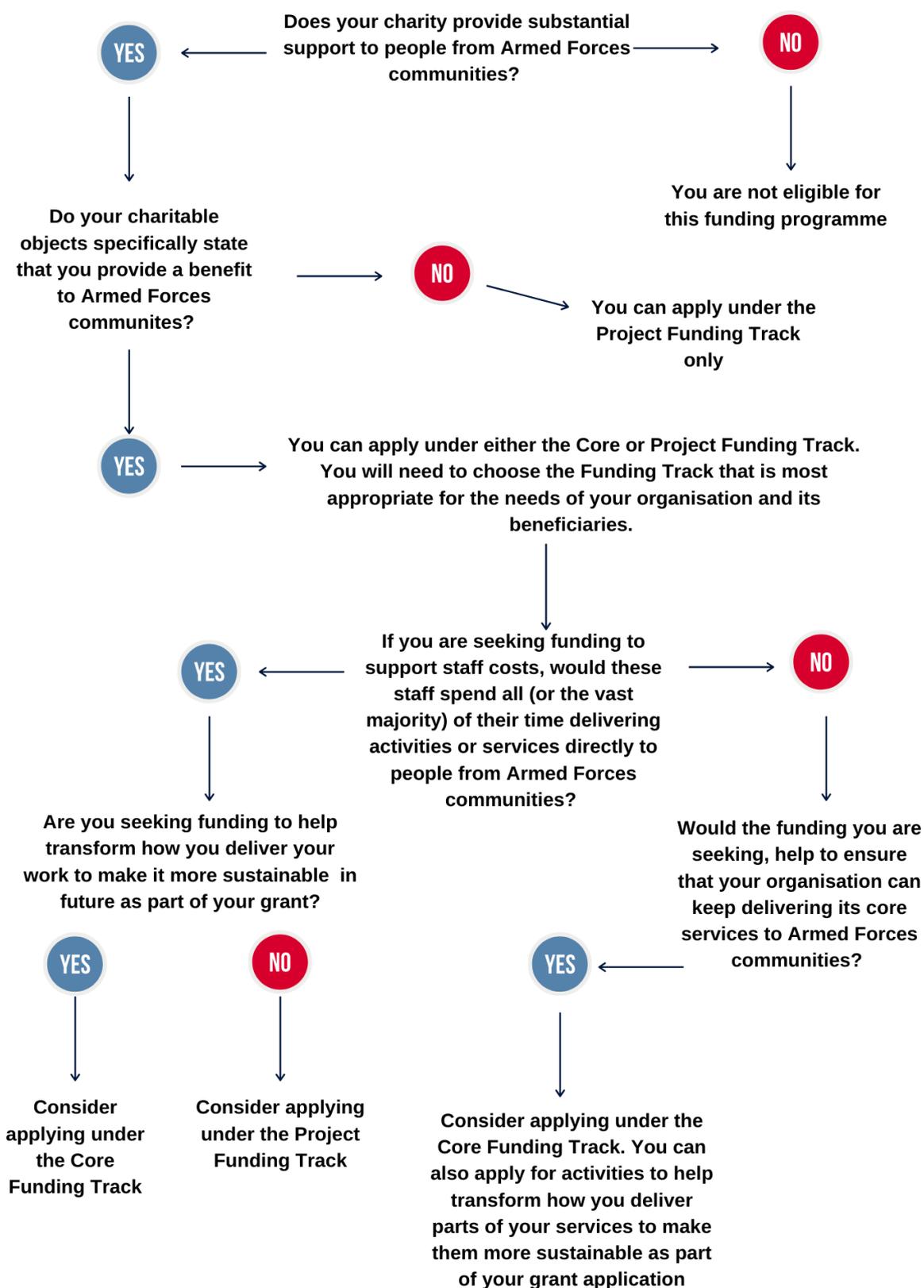
Providing short term funding for well used activities. Funds service provision only

- For projects and services. Will fund reasonable overheads
- This route can be used by charities that provide support to Armed Forces communities
- Funding application based on data on what it has cost applicant to run this service in previous years and evidence of demand for service
- Grant holders can access Impact Hub to give them access to data which may assist with sustainability

Impact/ Success measures

- Numbers of Armed Forces communities able to access services
- Impact Hub data if relevant to project/service
- Future continuity of service provision

You will need to carefully consider which Funding Track to apply under. You can only apply for one Track. If you apply for both, then neither of your applications will be considered.



***When considering which Funding Track to apply for, you may find it helpful to consider the following guidance. ***

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.

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 this guidance, an activity, project or service for Armed Forces communities that is established over a number of years is eligible.

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 an activity, project or service that works directly with Armed Forces communities, and not with the wider local community.

How much funding can you apply for?

Your application (including your accompanying letter) must be able to clearly show how the Covid pandemic has had a negative effect on your organisation's finances.

We are offering grants in two bands under this programme. These are the same under both the Core and Project Funding Tracks.

You can apply for a grant of up to £50,000 or a grant of up to £100,000. We expect to make grant awards in each band. The minimum grant we will award is £20,000.

You can also apply to the upper band of £51,000-£100,000. Trustees are unlikely to award grants of this size to organisations with turnover in the last few years before the pandemic of less than £500,000.

Awards are at the Trustees' discretion. We expect this funding programme to be significantly oversubscribed.

You should:

- think carefully about what funding you need at this time to support services which you run that people from Armed Forces communities value
- use information from your previous year's work to guide the amount that you are seeking.

Funding bands

General funding band:

You can apply for between £20,000 and £50,000.

Upper funding band

You can apply for a grant of between £51,000-£100,000.

To apply for a grant in this band, your organisation's annual turnover before the pandemic should be £500,000 or above.

Making your application

Your organisation will need to choose which Funding Track to apply for. There are separate guidance documents for the Core Funding Track and the Project Funding Track. Please read the specific guidance for your chosen Track carefully before you submit your application.

You must ensure that you are using the correct application form. You will be asked different questions depending on which Funding Track you are applying under. You can access copies of the application form on our website for reference. You must make your application through our online grant portal.

If we award you a grant, we may list your project on our app, which makes it easier for people to find projects we've funded in their local area.