



Office for  
Veterans' Affairs

 THE ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT FUND TRUST

# Reducing Veteran Homelessness Programme

## FAQs

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### What is the aim of this program?

This programme will fund projects that will provide additional capacity in services for veterans who are at risk of homelessness and will:

- Contribute to the aims of the government's ambition to reduce veteran homelessness and end rough sleeping.
- Deliver sustainable supported housing to meet the needs of veterans.

### What can the funds be used for?

We will be making a small number of grants that contribute to the aims of the government's ambition to reduce veteran homelessness and end rough sleeping. There is more information in the programme guidance about the types of projects that we will fund.

We anticipate making a very small number of major grants under this programme.

### We are a private company working with homeless veterans, are we eligible to apply?

No, only registered charities/ housing associations that have been registered in the UK for at least five years at the time of grant award, OR not for profit organisations that are a registered provider of social housing, with at least 5 years of experience offering dedicated and specific housing support to veterans are eligible to apply. Furthermore, in order to meet our eligibility criteria, your application must clearly show that:

- You have experience in providing supported housing to veterans
- That you have evidence of robust governance to manage risks effectively
- That the activities or services that you are bidding for must not already be in receipt of funding from Government, Local Authority or a similar statutory body. However, you can bid for additional funding to enhance existing funded activities or services.

### How much can I apply for?

You can apply for up to £500,000 per year (a total of £1 million over two years) per organisation. You can also apply for an Enhanced Award of up to an additional £250,000, per year (a total of £500,000 over two years).

### What does an enhanced grant mean?

Exceptionally, the Trust may consider making Enhanced Awards of up to £250,000 per year (a total of £500,000 over two years), in addition to the core grant, in some circumstances.

These will be only where organisations can show us that extending a project will fill a significant level of currently unmet need for either:

- a significant number of veterans; or
- veterans with particularly complex needs who are unable to access existing provision

### What does complex/high needs mean?

Organisations may have their own definition of what complex needs and this will be included in your application form when describing your project however as a general guide Veterans with complex needs are those needing a high level of support with many aspects of their daily life and relying on a range of health and social care services. This may be because of illness, disability, broader life circumstances or a combination of these.

### **What does Medium-Low support mean?**

Veterans with medium/ low support may require support Again, organisations can demonstrate what they mean by medium and low-level support in their application form, however as a general guide veteran with medium support needs may need support with making appointments and possibly assistance with forms, budgets et and low-level support might involve needs signposting or help with accessing other forms of support.

### **What types of projects is this programme aimed at?**

We would like to fund projects that are adaptable, that are collaborative with sustained outcomes that enable vulnerable veterans to access and remain engaged within supported housing as an alternative to street living.

### **How long are projects expected to run for?**

Your project can be up to two years in length and should begin within two months of the date of award.

### **What is Op Fortitude?**

Operation FORTITUDE is a UK wide referral pathway that will support homeless veterans or veterans at risk of homelessness into housing and is run by the Office for Veteran Affairs. More information on this can be found [here](#).

### **We have multiple schemes(locations), can we put in an application for more than one project?**

Where an organisation is bidding for multiple schemes (locations), each scheme should be separately costed, but combined as a single application.

### **What does a strong application look like?**

A strong application will be able to show how the project will contribute to the aims of the government's ambition to reduce veteran homelessness and end rough sleeping.

### **What does my application need to include?**

Your application needs to include you should think carefully about value for money and show in your application why you believe your costs to be reasonable.

### **Our organisation is in Scotland, are you able to apply for funding under this programme?**

This programme is open to providers throughout the UK. However, we would expect strong applications to be able to show how they will work effectively and collaboratively with Local Authorities and the relevant Devolved Administration in the areas in which your project is offering support.

### **What does my application need to show?**

Your application should show how it will contribute to the aims of government's homelessness policies, including that of Devolved Administrations where applicable. You will need to show that you have experience in providing supported housing to veterans, with evidence of robust governance to manage risks effectively.

### **Who is this programme aimed at?**

We want to support projects that improve the capacity of services in supported housing to be better able to help veterans with a range of needs. Through doing this we can help reduce veteran homelessness.

### **We have not worked with vulnerable, street living veterans before, but we have worked with other vulnerable, street-living members of society, can we still apply?**

No, we would expect clear evidence of existing work with the veterans who have experienced homelessness, including evidence of how people with lived experience will be able to strategically shape the project.

### **If we are awarded a grant under this programme, what are the expectations of us?**

If we award you a grant, you will need to provide us with monitoring information. This will include regular progress reports on activity and spend, as well as meetings with the Trust. You will also need to work with the external evaluators for this programme. You will also need to give us a high-level budget with milestones which demonstrates that you will deliver the required outcomes and impact, with an emphasis on value for money.

### **Our application will include us working with different organisations to help us deliver effective support to veterans with complex needs, what do we need to have in place?**

You should tell us which organisations you will be working with to support veterans. If another organisation will be receiving part of any grant we award, you will need to have a partnership agreement in place. There is more information on partnership agreements contained within the programme guidance.

### **Why does an applicant need a minimum 5 years of experience?**

The Reducing Homeless Programme will award significant grants of up to £1.5M to a small number of organisations that will contribute to the aims of the government's ambition to reduce veteran homelessness and end rough sleeping and deliver sustainable supported housing to meet the needs of veterans.

As we will be awarding very significant grants under this programme, we are keen to ensure that organisations have considerable experience in delivering support to veterans who have experienced homelessness. In order to be transparent about the amount of significant experience that we are expecting applicants to have, we set criteria stating that eligible applications would come from:

- Registered charities or housing associations that have been registered in the UK for at least five years at the time of grant award, which can demonstrate relevant experience and engagement in the direct provision of housing for veterans.

OR

- A not-for-profit registered provider of social housing, who is registered with the relevant regulator of social housing in your part of the UK; and has offered dedicated and specific housing support to veterans for at least five years.

A strong application will be able to show how the project will contribute to the aims of the Government's ambition to reduce veteran homelessness and end rough sleeping; who you would work with to deliver the project and how the benefits of the work would be sustained beyond the life of the grant.

We would encourage organisations that cannot apply directly to this programme to explore how they could work in partnership with eligible organisations. We are keen to see strong applications where projects would be delivered in collaborative ways to best meet the needs of veterans.

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust will be reopening the Reaching and Supporting Armed Forces Communities programme this spring. This programme will award grants of up to £150K to projects that clearly address hidden or compelling needs identified in Armed Forces communities. This year, there will be a particular focus on projects that target those more vulnerable Armed Forces communities that are most impacted by cost-of-living challenges.

#### **Can the application deadline for this programme be extended?**

We cannot extend the application period for this programme.

We acknowledge that developing a good quality grant application is time consuming for organisations that are seeking funding. Under this programme, organisations need to have significant experience in supporting homeless veterans. We would anticipate that organisations can draw on this experience when completing the application form.

This programme will provide additional capacity in services for veterans who are at risk of homelessness and will contribute to the aims of the government's ambition to reduce veteran homelessness and end rough sleeping, whilst delivering sustainable supported housing to meet the needs of veterans. Consequently, applicants will receive a decision on whether their application has been successful or not in a timely manner so as to enable projects to start as soon as possible.