



Office for
Veterans' Affairs

THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST
Funded by HM Government

Veterans' Capital Housing Fund



Major Capital Grants Programme

FAQs

**The Veterans' Capital Housing Fund
Major Capital Grants Programme
Stage One: 'Expression of Interest'**

FAQS

How are the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and the Office for Veterans affairs working together to deliver this programme?

Under this programme the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust will award grants on behalf of the Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA), towards projects that contribute to the aims of the government's ambition to reduce Veteran homelessness and end rough sleeping.

This is a major grants programme. It is for capital projects that will support new builds, significant refurbishment, or extension of accommodation for Veterans.

What do we mean by a two-stage application process?

At stage one, you are submitting an 'Expression of Interest', which asks for an overview of your project. If you are invited to submit a full, stage two application, this will be more detailed.

Your Expression of Interest (EOI) should include information on the following:

- How your project will help to secure accommodation at risk of falling out of use/no longer fit for purpose *and/or*
- How your project will add to existing accommodation units to increase units available *and/or*
- How any planned adaptations will increase availability of either accommodation or communal facilities to Veterans with disabilities or mobility issues.

Furthermore, you need to be able to show us, at the Expression of Interest stage, how a major grant would meet the wider aims of the Veteran Capital Housing Fund, with a particular focus on:

- transitional/homeless accommodation
- care homes
- supported/sheltered accommodation
- social Housing or Registered Social Landlord in Scotland).

It is likely that we will receive more requests than can be funded under this programme.

All applicants will be contacted in March 2024 and the strongest proposals will be invited to make detailed, second-stage applications. The timetable for this is in the

programme guidance document. If you are invited to make a full application, you will be sent further guidance at the second stage.

What does a strong Expression of Interest look like?

A strong EOI 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 contribute to the overall aims of this programme.

You should think carefully about value for money and describe in your EOI why you believe your costs to be reasonable.

What financial information should we include in your Expression of Interest?

The EOI form will ask you to summarise your project budget, so that we can understand the costs for which you are asking for funding towards. Whilst you can show this in categories (rather than, for example, listing every item of the building work you carry out) we will need to have sufficient information to assure us that you have fully considered how much the work will cost and told us how you know this.

If you are invited to the second stage of the application process, we will require detailed budgets and project milestones. More information will be provided in second stage guidance documents.

I have read the guidance document, and it mentions the Subsidy Control Act. What is a subsidy?

We are a public body, and we are required under the Subsidy Control Act 2022's transparency requirements to publish details concerning individual awards which may be considered to be subsidies.

There are four key characteristics which must all be present for funding to be classed as a subsidy:

1. a financial contribution
2. given by a public authority from public funds.
3. given to an organisation giving them an economic advantage that is not available on market terms.
4. Affects, or is capable of affecting, competition or investment within the UK, or trade or investment between the UK and a country or territory outside of the UK.

If our funding meets **all four key characteristics**, then it will be a subsidy.

For a subsidy to be permitted it has to comply with seven common principles as set out on the UK government website.

Subsidies above a certain financial threshold (currently £100,000) must be published on both our own website, and on a database held by BEIS.

Smaller grants may be outside the scope of the Act if they are not considered to be a subsidy. For example, because they are unlikely to have an impact on trade or investment.

You should familiarise yourself with the requirements of the new subsidy control regime when considering applying to us.

We are a CIC, working with Veterans, can we apply?

To eligible for this funding, you must be one of the following:

- a registered Charity that can show it works with Veterans
- or*
- a registered social housing provider (we will check the list at the time of assessment) that can show it works with Veterans.

A CIC can only apply if they are a registered social housing provider.

We are a social housing provider, without any experience of working with Armed Forces communities, however, we would like to partner with a registered charity that has demonstrable experience in running an existing housing scheme for Veterans in line with the requirements in the programme guidance, can we apply?

Yes, you can work with other organisations as part of your project. However, if any of the organisations that you will be working with will receive part of your grant, you should refer to the section on delivery partners in our guidance.

What do you mean by a delivery partner?

A delivery partner is an organisation which is either: receiving part of the grant or their involvement in the project, through providing resources or some other means, is critical to the delivery of the project.

If we award you funding and you plan to work with one or more delivery partners, it will be a term and condition of your grant offer that you have a formal signed partnership agreement with them. You can find guidance on what a delivery partnership agreement should include on our website.

If we are applying for over £500K, what are the additional requirements?

Firstly, your organisation needs to be eligible to apply under the main programme criteria.

If you are applying for a grant of more than £500K, you will need to additionally meet the extra following criteria.

- Have demonstrable experience in running existing housing schemes for Veterans and have done so for at least 5 years.
- Have experience in managing building schemes for Veterans housing. This can include significant refurbishment projects.
- Have match funding of at least 30% secured for the whole project. This needs to be in cash, rather than in kind. It must be secured at the time of application rather than a target to raise at a later date.
- Your project will add substantial additional housing capacity.

Do we need match funding if we are applying for a grant of less than £500K?

There is no formal requirement for match funding for a grant under £500K, however, if you have secured match funding for your project, you should tell us. You need to meet all other requirements regarding eligibility that are set out within the programme guidance.