

Grants Committee – External members (voluntary)

Who we are:

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust awards grants that support the Armed Forces community.

We are both a charity and a Non-Departmental Public Body, or NDPB. We deliver high impact programmes, including administration of the £10 million Armed Forces Covenant Fund, each year.

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund has four broad funding themes now and in future years.

1. Non-core healthcare services for Veterans.
2. Removing barriers to family life.
3. Extra support, both in and after Service, for those that need help.
4. Measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the armed forces community to participate as citizens.

We also work with HM Government to run other funding programmes that have a positive impact on Armed Forces communities.

All our grants are awarded through specific programmes. Each programme has an aim, which describes the change that we would like the funded projects to achieve. You can read more about our programmes on our website: [The Armed Forces Covenant : Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust](#)

We've run some significant programmes exploring serious mental ill-health in veterans, and how we might support families and their carers. We have funded programmes that support good mental health and tackle loneliness, and programmes to provide better support to armed forces families.

Who we are looking for:

We are looking for external members with significant grant making experience to serve on our Grants Committee, together with some of our Board members. This would offer an opportunity for someone who is perhaps working for another funder to gain an insight into the work of the Trust and share their knowledge and expertise.

The committee is responsible for approving grant decisions across a range of grants programmes and approving, if necessary, grant variations and withdrawals. The committee takes into account the Board's principles including the need to achieve a distribution of funds to a reasonably wide spread of recipients across the United Kingdom and with regard to the specific needs of the Devolved Administrations.

As other grant programmes are developed and launched, the committee will also be responsible for other grant making decisions as required, as well as providing expertise and insight as these programmes develop.

We would be interested in hearing from anyone with:

- extensive charitable or public sector grant decision-making experience, within any sector.
- the ability to review and analyse relevant data and documents to support evidence based effective decision-making.
- the ability to share knowledge, support and constructively challenge fellow committee members to reach collectively agreed decisions.

- experience of a previous governance role, for example as a trustee or committee member (desirable not essential).
- An interest and commitment to the health and wellbeing issues impacting on the armed forces community (personal connection or lived experience is desirable but not essential)

What they would be asked to do:

- Set aside time to read and digest paperwork on applications, committee papers and updates, up to 2 hours per meeting.
- Contribute to decision-making on applications for funding.
- Attend four Grants Committee meetings per year by video conference (MS Teams).
- Respond to ad hoc email requests for grant approvals outside the meeting cycle.
- Confirm attendance (or absence) in advance of each meeting.
- Declare and proactively remove themselves from any potential conflicts of interest.
- Retain confidentiality about grant applications and other sensitive information about partners.
- Comply with any Trust policies and participate in any training relevant to the role.
- Adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership; and understand the Trust's Code of Ethical Conduct.
- Participate in an annual review of the role and committee.

Meetings, usually scheduled for approximately 90 minutes, take place during normal work hours so you will need to be able to attend during the day and arrange leave from your other role(s) as needed.

The role is unpaid/voluntary, but reasonable expenses will be paid in line with the Trust's travel and subsistence policy.

The appointments would be for two years in the first instance, with the possibility of renewal.

We recognise that the current members of the grants committee are predominantly white, and we are genuinely committed to encouraging applications from diverse communities in order to improve the service we provide. We're not just searching for skills but also how a candidate could uphold our values and enhance our culture, therefore, even if you don't think you meet all the skills criteria listed in our job descriptions, we'd still like to hear from you.

All candidates will be treated respectfully, equitably and honestly irrespective of race, ethnic origin, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation or social background. We recognise and value individuals from diverse backgrounds who bring with them fresh ideas, knowledge, experience and talent.

How to apply:

To apply for this post, please email your CV and a covering letter explaining how you meet the criteria to info@covenantfund.org.uk marked APPLICATION FOR AFCFT GRANTS COMMITTEE.

If you would like the information in a different format, please contact info@covenantfund.org.uk.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 14 April 2025** at midday, however if there are a high number of applicants or the right candidate is found before this date then the vacancy will close early, so please apply as soon as possible.

We expect that interviews will take place via Teams by 28 April 2025.

Applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

To arrange a confidential discussion of this opportunity, please email info@covenantfund.org.uk.

Please note: The Trust will be advertising this year for two Trustees, one of whom will be Chair of the Grants Committee. As these will be Board appointments requiring Ministerial approval, there will be a separate recruitment process which will be run in accordance with the Public Appointments guidelines. Your application for this External Committee Member role will not affect any potential future application as a Trustee.