

Your application guide

Please use this document to understand if your organisation is eligible to apply for a small grant from the Building Happier Futures Fund and what Trustees are looking for in an application.

How to apply

To request an application for a Building Happier Futures grant, please email us at trustsandfoundations@johnlewis.co.uk, indicating which fund you'd like to apply to, and we'll send you some information.

Is your project eligible?

The Building Happier Futures fund may support charitable initiatives as defined by law, but the Trustees have the right to prioritise projects with certain objectives. Currently, the Trustees are investing in young people who have experienced the care system to access sustainable and meaningful employment, and also activate small grants to projects which enable success for care experienced people.

The project must be inclusive of all parts of society, non-denominational, and non-political. For example, a project run by an organisation with a particular religious ethic or way of thinking may be considered, as long as the project does not exclude individuals who are not of that religion or way of thinking as part of the project.

The project or activity being undertaken must be UK based.

For more general guidance, the Trustees are looking for projects that:

- are sustainable and create a quantifiable legacy
- demonstrably improve social inclusion for the care experienced community

The Trustees are happy to co-fund projects with other donors, but they need to be satisfied that the funds are being used for initiatives and objectives that meet the fund criteria. For this reason, Trustees prefer to fund a discrete project or discrete area of a larger project rather than provide top-up for shortfall funding.

Before applying, please check your project against the following criteria. You need to be able to answer 'yes' to all questions to be eligible for the BHF fund.

- Is my organisation a registered charity or a Community Interest Company, or can I demonstrate that my project is a charitable activity?
- Does the project focus on an area of need within the care experience community?
- Does the project focus on improving employability or improved life outcomes?

You also need to be able to answer 'no' to the following questions:

- Is my organisation a pressure group or campaigning organisation?
- Does the project aim to promote religion or politics of any kind, and does it exclude any part of society?
- Is the main objective to:
 - purchase or renovate a building or any other capital item?
 - fund consumables, recreation, holiday or respite care?
 - fund courses or conferences?
 - provide sponsorship for an individual or group?
- Am I seeking funding for core costs or on-going activities?
- Does the project include any residential aspect (e.g. a scout or guide camp)?

How will the Trustees assess my project?

- **Leverage:** can you show how your project could unlock other funding streams – public or private? This could be to share project costs or improve an individual project's impact, relative to the financial contribution.
- **Innovative and difficult projects:** is this an opportunity to fund a project that is innovative, or to target difficult issues that don't normally attract funding?
- **Chances of project success:** what is the likelihood of success based on previous projects, background studies, and the details of the proposed work plan?
- **Impact:** Trustees prefer lasting positive impacts for a small group of people, rather than larger beneficiary numbers with light touch benefits.
- **Sustainability:** how sustainable is the initiative? If the project is already ongoing is it solely reliant on funding from the Building Happier Futures fund to succeed? Trustees prioritise projects that demonstrate plans to become self-resourcing.
- **Project management:** can you demonstrate how your project will be managed, benchmarked, and evaluated?

Trustees will hold a meeting to decide whether or not your funding request has been successful. The results will be communicated to you as soon as possible, and within eight weeks of the meeting.