

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund

FORCE FOR CHANGE PROGRAMME



Frequently Asked Questions



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Under this programme, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (the Trust) will award grants of up to £20,000 towards local projects which support Armed Forces communities; particularly where they have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic or where volunteer run projects need some additional help.

Can I apply for a grant if I've had funding from the Covenant Fund: Local Grants programme?

Yes, but you need to be sure that your project meets the aims of the Force for Change programme. We will look at any grants that you've had with us before, so please make sure that you are up to date on any reporting before you apply for a new grant.

We had a grant from the Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten (VSNBF) programme, can we get a grant through Force for Change to continue this work?

Yes, you can once the work funded from the VSNBF programme has ended, providing that you can show us there is still a need for this work. You could speak with the veterans that you are supporting and find out what support would make a difference to them and this would help you to put a stronger application into us.

We had a grant from the Forces Communities Together programme, can we apply for a new grant?

Your organisation may be eligible for Force for Change, either for a new project or to continue the work you began with Forces Communities Together funding. You will need to read the programme guidance and consider whether your project fits with the aims of this funding programme, and, if you are continuing a project already funded by the Trust, that there is no overlap or duplication of funding.

Can I make more than one application to Force for Change?

Yes, you are welcome to apply more than once, but there is likely to be competition for funds, so Trustees may not wish to make more than one grant to each organisation.

Can I reapply to the second deadline if I am unsuccessful in the first round?

Yes, but note that you will have very little time to do this as the second deadline is 30 November.

Will the Trust be running this programme next year?

The Trust is currently responding to the needs of communities during the Covid-19 pandemic and all future programme planning will depend on its continuing impact.

What do you mean by local?

We mean that the people who benefit from your projects should be clearly identifiable and would live within a broadly definable geographic area.

Can I apply for a project where some aspects would be delivered digitally?

Yes, you can, providing that it meets the aims of the programme and we can clearly see who the beneficiaries would be and why they would like this project take place.

We'd like a grant to start working with people from Armed Forces communities. Can we apply through this programme?

We need to see that your organisation has previous experience of working with people from Armed Forces communities and that they have actively participated in shaping the project.

Can our project focus on developing good relations between Armed Forces and local civilian communities?

We are keen to support projects that encourage people from Armed Forces communities to play a stronger role in their local communities. We can fund projects that bring Armed Forces and people within the local area together, but we will only fund these projects where we can see that there are clear benefits to people from Armed Forces communities, particularly in helping to reduce isolation.

We are a local authority. Can we apply for a grant that continues some of the work we were doing through our Strengthening Delivery of the Covenant work?

Yes, providing that it includes direct delivery to people from Armed Forces communities, and that it meets the aims of the Force for Change programme.

We are a school that sits within an Academy Trust, am I still eligible to apply?

Schools that are run by Academy Trusts are eligible to apply, but the umbrella Trust itself is ineligible unless it is a registered charity. Academy Trusts that are exempt charities are not eligible to apply. These institutions are not registered or directly regulated by the Charity Commission.

We are a college/university - are we eligible to apply?

Colleges and universities are not eligible for this programme

We are a playgroup/nursery are we eligible to apply?

Only if you are a registered charity or CIC

We are a church – can we apply?

If your church (or other religious organisation) is a registered charity, it is eligible. It may be that your church's local management team, or perhaps its youth club, or playgroup, or the group that organises arts or social events in the church, has registered as a charity or CIC, in which case they can apply.

We are newly registered CIC or charity but have been working to support the Armed Forces Community for a while, are we eligible to apply?

You must have been a registered CIC or charity for at least one year and have at least one set of published accounts.

Can we apply for commemoration activities/events such as Remembrance Day?

Events may be funded, but only where they are clearly part of a wider project that meets the aims of the Force for Change programme.