

Transformational Grants Programme: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the overall aim of the Transformational Grants programme?

A: Our Transformational Grants programme aims to help Christian organisations to make a step change in their capacity, reach, impact and spiritual growth, enabling them to forge connections with many more people and communities who will benefit from their work.

Q: What are the funding criteria for the Transformational Grants programme?

A: In addition to meeting the Trust's [core criteria](#) for the award of a grant, applicants must demonstrate through their application how their project will achieve as many as possible, and ideally all, of the following criteria:

- i. Significantly extend the organisation's reach to a greater number of people and/or over a wider geographical area, and increase the scope of its work
- ii. Make a vital difference in enabling the organisation to realise its overall vision and strategic aims
- iii. Lead to a significant step-change or growth for the organisation – numerically and spiritually
- iv. Benefit not only the immediate organisation but other similar organisations and/or the wider community as well

Transformational Grants are usually for major, multi-year projects and, only a limited number are awarded each year to the projects that trustees consider best fit the aims and criteria for the programme.

Q: Who can apply for a Transformational Grant?

A: Churches, cathedrals and Christian denominational bodies, and Christian charities in the UK and the Republic of Ireland are eligible to apply. Please note, however, that as grants awarded are usually for major projects with wide impact, fulfilling as many as possible of the funding criteria above, it would be unusual for an application from a local church to be awarded a grant. If you are in doubt as to your eligibility, please e-mail us at info@benefacttrust.co.uk and we will provide guidance.

Q: What kinds of projects are Transformational Grants available for?

A: The programme aims to fund the most innovative and impactful projects that will make a change in the world and inspire and give confidence to other churches and Christian organisations to do the same. Applicants should, therefore, be committed to exploring partnerships and sharing learnings that will benefit the wider Christian sector. Links to some examples of grants that have been awarded under the programme are available [here](#). If you are in doubt as to whether your project is likely to meet the programme aims and criteria, please e-mail us at info@benefacttrust.co.uk and we will provide guidance.



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Q: What kinds of project costs are Transformational Grants available for?

A: While the majority of Benefact Trusts' grants are for capital projects and equipment, our Transformational Grants programme can also fund salaries and other revenue costs, recognising that innovative projects seeking to achieve a step-change will require significant resource for pump-priming and capacity-building in order to maximise potential impact and reach. Please note, however, that 'business as usual'/core costs are not supported, and therefore your project budget should include only the new or additional costs that require funding support in order to enable your project to succeed.

Q: What size of grants are available?

A: There is no maximum grant, but there is a limited budget and only a limited number of grants are awarded each year to the projects that trustees consider best fit the aims and criteria for the programme. We wouldn't normally expect to fund 100% of the cost of a project and would, where possible, expect your organisation to contribute some additional funding towards the project, whether from your own resources or from other sources. We encourage applicants to explore the possibilities of partnership, including the involvement of other funders. Substantial grants will often be paid in tranches over a number of years, with each tranche being paid on the condition that a satisfactory progress report has been provided demonstrating how the grant paid to date has enabled your organisation to achieve the outcomes set out in the initial grant application.

Q: Can we apply for a specific grant amount?

A: Yes. The application form enables you to do so.

Q: Can we apply for a multi-year grant?

A: Yes. The application form enables you to do so. Multi-year grants are normally awarded for no more than 3 years.

Q: Do we need to have raised any funds towards the cost of our project before applying?

A: Whilst this isn't essential, it will be helpful if you can show that you have at least some funds in place, and our trustees will expect to see a realistic funding plan in place to meet the costs of your project, and where possible, to see a contribution towards project costs from your existing resources.

Q: We've recently had a grant from Benefact Trust under a different programme. Can we still apply?

A: If your grant was through one of our thematic grants programmes, i.e. Growing Lives, Hope Beyond, Brighter Lives, Roof Protection Scheme, you can still apply for funding under the Transformational Grants programme even if you have received a grant from Benefact Trust within the last two years, as long as the application is for a different project.

If your grant was through our general grants programme, the Transformational Grants programme or one of our former Special Projects or Flagship Projects grants programmes, you will need to wait until at least two years has elapsed since your grant (or final grant payment, in the case of multi-year grants) was received before applying.



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Q: Is there a deadline for applications?

A: Applications are considered on a rolling basis at three points during the year, and there is no fixed deadline while funds for the programme are still available.

Q: How soon can we expect to know the outcome of our application?

A: The extensive application, assessment and decision-making processes which apply to this programme mean that we will typically require 3-6 months to let you know the eventual outcome of your application, though we will keep in contact with you throughout to keep you advised of progress.

Q: How can we apply for a grant?

A: All applications must be submitted via our online application form. Just visit www.benefacttrust.co.uk/which-grant-is-for-me/transformational-grants and click on 'Apply now'. You don't have to complete your application in one session as you can save your progress and return to the application when you are ready.

The application process starts with an eligibility check, and is then a two-stage process:

- Stage 1: overview information about the project for which you are seeking funding
- Stage 2: detailed information about the project for which you are seeking funding

Once you have submitted your Stage 1 application information, this will be reviewed and you will be informed as soon as possible whether we would like you to progress to Stage 2. Full (Stage 1 and Stage 2) applications are considered initially by our Grants Committee, and eventually by our full Board of Trustees. One of our Grants Officers will keep you informed with regard to the progress of your application throughout the process.

Q: Is it possible to see the application form questions before starting the process?

A: Yes. The first page of the application form process provides a link that will enable you to read through the Stage 1 questions before you start your application. If we ask you to progress to Stage 2, you'll then be able to read through the Stage 2 questions before proceeding further.

Q: How can we get some guidance on planning our project?

A: Guidance and tools for project planning, reporting and impact evaluation tools, as well as advice on applying for funding, publicising your project and much more are available on our [advice and resources hub](#).

Q: If we are successful, will you expect us to promote news of our grant in any way?

A: Yes. We work closely with recipients of transformational grants to communicate their grant award, key project milestones and the longer-term impact of our funding. As a Transformational Grant recipient, we will work with you to draw up a communications agreement and will be happy to support your communications planning and delivery.



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Q: What are your reporting requirements if we are successful in our application?

A: Successful applicants will be asked to provide an annual report to tell us about the progress that has been made against project impact and outcomes stated at the application stage. For multi-year grants, payment of the next grant tranche depends on satisfactory progress being evidenced. We will also ask successful applicants to take part in an online survey to help Benefact Trust understand better the impact that Transformational Grants are helping beneficiaries to achieve.

Q: Where can we get further help and advice if our question hasn't been covered?

A: Please e-mail us at info@benefact.co.uk and we will respond as soon as possible. You may also like to read [this article](#), which addresses some other frequently asked questions about applying for grants, though please note this is written with our general application form in mind.