

# Major Grants Funding Guidelines from July 2025

## Major Grants Programme

**Open to any eligible organisation with an annual income under £500,000**

### Single year grants:

From £10,000 to a max of £50,000 for one year for core costs, salaries, running and project costs.

The amount requested must not be for more than 50% of the total cost.

No further applications can be made for two years after the completion of the grant.

OR

### Multi-year grants:

From £10,000 up to a maximum of £100,000 over 3-years for core costs, salaries, running or project costs. No more than £50k can be applied for in any given year over a 3 year period.

The amount requested must not be for more than 50% of the total cost.

### A Focus on Family Support including:

- Early intervention
- Families coping with addiction
- Prisoners' families

**Trustees will consider the additionality of grant funds to a charity's financial situation**

## Who And What We Fund

- Charitable organisations including social enterprises, not-for-profit registered companies (not CICs) and voluntary organisations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Small to medium sized local organisations with a demonstrable track record of success working to address local issues in communities of extreme urban deprivation and deprived rural districts
- Revenue costs including core costs, salaries, running and project costs

## Organisations We Do Not Fund

- Organisations whose postcode is not within the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) limits set out on page 2
- Organisations with an annual income over £500k
- *For Major Grants:* Adventure Playgrounds, Baby Banks and Disability charities
- Individuals, whether direct or through a third party
- Newly established organisations with no previous annual accounts
- Charities or NGOs registered outside the UK
- Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- Statutory services including state schools, local or national authorities, prisons, NHS hospitals or services
- Universities, further education colleges and independent schools
- Hospices
- Grant-making or umbrella organisations
- Organisations that have applied to us unsuccessfully within the previous 12 months
- Organisations which have made late annual returns to the Charity Commission or Companies House within the past three years
- Organisations which have not reviewed their safeguarding policy and/or held formal safeguarding training/refreshers sessions within the past 12 months
- Organisations holding more than 12 months operating costs in reserves

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## Projects We Do Not Fund

- Capital projects
- Projects outside the UK
- Animal welfare
- Environment & conservation
- Medical research
- Feasibility studies
- One-off events (except under the Small Grants programme)
- PR and awareness raising; fundraising salaries, events, initiatives or websites
- Non-secular activities
- Projects primarily concerned with the production of films, podcasts or other media
- Urban projects not delivered in the same city/ town (or borough for London) in which the applying organisation is based

## Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Requirement

Your organisation's postcode, or the area where activities are carried out, must be ranked within the most deprived 15% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) for urban areas or if you are located in a rural area, your postcode must be within the most deprived 50%.

Please do not apply if you cannot satisfy the IMD requirement.

Your application should describe your local area in your own words, explaining the everyday pluses and minuses for people living there, giving a good grassroots sense of the people and place. We will then be able to understand the wider context of your work.

You should read the [Major Grants Stage 1 Application Guidance](#) document for a full understanding of what we need and expect in your description.

## Urban Deprivation

We classify as 'urban' those areas with a population of more than 10,000. Our focus is on areas of extreme deprivation and your postcode (or that of the area where you deliver your work) must be ranked within the most deprived 15% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Your community must be based in an area where disadvantage is exacerbated by local issues of unemployment, low incomes and poor housing

### Northern Ireland

Organisations must be based in areas where local postcodes are based in the most deprived 50% of the N Ireland Index of Multiple Deprivation, with the exception of organisations in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Portadown and Lurgan where the postcode of the organisation must be within the most deprived 15% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

## Rural Deprivation

We classify 'rural' as areas with less than 10,000 inhabitants in your village/town. Your postcode must be within the most deprived 50% of the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Your community must be based in a remote, rural, economically-deprived area where there are few local facilities. Transport may be an issue; incomes are low and there are limited opportunities for fundraising.

## Funding Focus: Family Support

In many disadvantaged UK communities, vulnerable families have complex and long-term needs which create multiple risk factors for children's development. Inter-related issues of problem debt, poor mental health, addiction, family stress and relationship breakdown have a direct impact on children.

Family support charities play a vital role in addressing the complex challenges that can lead to family breakdown. Supporting families through early intervention can have a positive impact.

Within Family Support, we have three priorities that exemplify the types of charitable activities we will fund:

- Early Intervention
- Families Coping with Addiction
- Prisoners' Families

You may find our [Grants Gallery](#) helpful in illustrating the types of Family Support projects we fund.

### Early Intervention

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Early intervention can improve the quality of a child's home and family life, enable children to perform better at school, improve mental health and allow children to reach their full potential.

Early intervention means identifying and providing effective early support to children and families at risk of experiencing poor life outcomes.

We are interested in supporting charities that provide:

- Family Support Services / Family Hubs
- Parenting workshops and training, reducing parental conflict
- Engaging parents in their child's early development
- Supporting mothers' pre and postnatal mental health
- Supporting attachment between child and caregiver
- Supporting family relationships and lone parents

### Families Coping With Addiction

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We are interested in supporting charities that provide:

- Counselling and peer support groups for families where addiction is evident
- Advice and support for families where addiction is evident
- Befriending and listening services for families where addiction is evident

### Prisoner's families

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Family relationships are essential for individuals in the criminal justice system. Family support is critical to rehabilitation, and to reduce re-offending.

We are interested in supporting charities that provide:

- Parenting education and workshops for offenders
- Counselling and coaching for prisoners' family members
- Befriending and peer support groups for prisoners' families

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## How To Apply

- Please read these Funding Guidelines carefully to be sure that you understand what our grants criteria are and if your organisation fits them.
- We strongly advise that you check the IMD deprivation rank for the postcode of your organisation, or project area, to ensure it falls within our stated limits. Our [FAQs](#) on our website explains how to do this.
- If you meet our criteria, you can visit our website and complete an eligibility quiz for the type of grant you are interested in. We cannot guarantee that being eligible for a grant means that we will be able to support your work as we receive many more applications than we can fund.
- We have a two-stage Major Grants process. The first step is to complete the online Major Grants form, also known as a Stage 1 application.
- We strongly advise you to read the [Major Grants Stage 1 Application Guidance](#) document which can be found on our Major Grants webpage. This tells you how to answer each question on the online application form.
- If your Stage 1 application is successful, we will send you an online link for the full Major Grants application form (Stage 2). Please read the Major Grants Stage 2 Application Guidance document.
- You fill in the form on-line to which you attach your latest annual accounts and a budget for the total cost of the work for which you are applying.
- Your accounts must include an Income and Expenditure sheet and a Balance Sheet.
- You can save and resume your application at any time by clicking on the Save and Resume Later link at the bottom of every page.

## What Happens To Your Application

- When you submit a Stage 1 application for Major Grants, you will automatically be sent an email acknowledging receipt.
- If the Stage 1 application is approved at the Grants Committee, you will be asked to complete a full grant application (Stage 2) for final decision by the Trustees. Notification of the Grants Committee's decision will usually be made within a week of the meeting.
- Stage 2 applicants may receive an online assessment meeting.
- We operate a rolling programme and you can apply at any time throughout the year. We do not have submission deadlines.
- Please allow 12-15 weeks for the entire two-stage process, though this may take longer. Please bear with us, we are a very small team of 1.5 staff members.
- Grants Committee meetings to determine Major Grants applications are held in January, April, July and October. Applications need to be received a minimum of three months prior to the meeting. **Trustees will consider the additionality of grant funds to the financial situation of a charity.**
- We strongly recommend that you apply as and when you are ready. Submitting close to a meeting means you will have to compete with a higher number of applicants than usual. For this reason, we do not give fixed deadline dates.
- We cannot guarantee that any application will go to a particular meeting: it depends on the number of applications already being considered, the time we need to make an assessment of your application and the amount of funds available for the meeting.

## Payment Of Grants

- All grants are paid by BACS transfer.
- When a grant is awarded, we will send an offer letter, asking you to confirm you would like to take up the grant and to send your charity's latest bank statement.
- Payment will usually be made within two weeks of our receipt of your confirmation and bank statement.
- Please note that we expect you to start spending your grant within 1-3 months of payment being made. Please do not apply too early as single year grants should be spent out within 12 months of payment.
- Multi-year revenue grants are paid annually, subject to satisfactory progress reports submitted on an annual basis.

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## Reporting to Us

- Single year grants: a progress report must be sent 12 months after payment is made. If the grant has not been fully used by that time, a final report must be made in another six months. We expect grants to have been fully spent by the end of 12 months from payment.
- Multi-year grants: yearly progress reports must be made to us promptly and a final report at the end of the grant.
- The Trustees may wish to make further assessment visits (or a first visit if this was not possible before the grant was awarded).
- We know that unexpected events occur to delay work, and it is very important to contact us as soon as possible if this happens.
- We try to be as flexible as possible with any changes to your grant. Please maintain prompt and efficient communication with us.

## Applying Again

- Unsuccessful applicants must wait a minimum of 12 months from the date of being notified of the decision on the previous application before making a new application.
- All successful grant recipients must leave a 2-year gap before applying again.
- There is no guarantee that any further application will lead to a grant. Each will be considered on its own merits and in the context of other applications.
- If you do receive several grants from Forte over the years, the Trustees may decide to limit further applications from your organisation for a given time.

## Contact

[grants@fortecharitablefoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@fortecharitablefoundation.org.uk)

Jessica Brown (Grants Director): Major Grants

Sandra Collazo (Grants Manager): Small Grants

## General Information

- Trusthouse was formed in 1997 under a High Court Order when the Council of Trust Houses Forte sought its direction for the creation of a Charity to manage the proceeds of sale of its shares in its mother company to Granada. In June 2025, the charity's name was changed to Forte Charitable Foundation, in order to memorialize the founder, Lord Charles Forte.
- Grants are made from the total return on Forte's investment portfolio. It is governed by a Board of Trustees
- Forte Charitable Foundation is managed on a day-to-day basis by Smith Square Trading Ltd. a subsidiary of the Centre for Social Justice. The two organisations are entirely independent of each other.