Alan Higgs Community Grants Fund Factsheet

The Alan Edward Higgs Charity has been making grants to charities across the West Midlands since 1979. It has now partnered with the Heart of England Community Foundation to share expertise in making grants to small grassroots, community-based organisations.

Note: The Alan Higgs Community Grants are in addition to the Higgs Charity's grant making programme.

Fund Aims

The fund aims to support small projects in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Priority will be given to those organisations whose focus is supporting children and young people.

Applications must meet one of the following aims:

- To relieve poverty.
- To promote economic and community development, and employment.
- For general charitable purposes.

Available Funding

Total project costs must be £2,000 maximum.

Grants of up to £1,000 are available. This must be 50% or more of the sum needed to deliver your project / initiative.

The minimum grant request is £500.

Funding must be spent within 1 year.

Deadlines

The Alan Higgs Community Grants Fund is a rolling fund, without specific deadlines, you can apply at any time.

What will we support?

- Start-up costs for a new project.

- To extend or develop an existing project.
- To purchase equipment or resources.

Eligibility

You can apply to this fund if you are one of the following:

- Registered Charities
- Constituted Community Groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Community Interest Companies* - CICs less than 2 years old will not be considered.
- Co-operatives - registered Community Benefit Societies and registered Industrial and Provident Societies

*Funding to Community Interest Companies and other non-charities may include conditions to restrict funding to charitable objectives only.

Additionally, your organisation/company income level must be equal to or less than £500,000, as shown in your most recent annual accounts.

What we cannot fund

- Individuals or sole traders
- Capital builds
- Direct replacement of statutory obligation and public funding.
- Promotion of religious or political activities.
- Groups with significant financial free reserves.
- Retrospective grants.
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans.
- National charities (but we could consider local branches who have their own bank account and management committee).
- Overseas travel or expeditions.
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare.
- General appeals.
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g., disabled riding schemes).
- Statutory work in educational institutions.
- Sponsored or fundraising events or groups raising funds to distribute to other causes.
- Schools, Churches, Parish Councils or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated.

- Boxing clubs, wrestling or associated organisations.

Additional Supporting Information

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide;

- Proof that your organisation has a governing body with at least three unrelated people as members. You will need to submit a list of those members who have bank authorisation (at least two unrelated signatories)
- A written constitution / articles / set of rules.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's income, expenditure and balance of funds and reserves.
- A bank statement from the last three months.
- A copy of your safeguarding policy(s). If you have any separate safeguarding procedures, please share them.
- A copy of your equal opportunities / EDI policy.
- Quotes for capital items over £300.

Your policies must show clearly that they are within their review date.

The documents listed above must be provided when submitting the application form. If any documents are unavailable at the time of submission, they must be provided within 7 days of submitting the application. Failure to provide the required documents within this timeframe will result in the application being rejected.

All grant applicants will be expected to participate in any appropriate publicity as requested by HoECF.

For guidance on impact reporting visit the Foundations website.

For more information, visit the Foundation's Essential Information page.