



Applying to charitable trusts to help fund your Individual Support Grant programme

Typical questions a trust might ask

These suggestions are intended to help you fill in application forms to successfully apply to raise funds to help your branch offer more support grants to local people.

They are not designed to help your support team apply for funding for support grants for specific individuals. Instead the suggestions are intended to help increase the number and value of grants that your branch is able to make.

Questions on an application form may be phrased slightly differently but do tend to want answers to the following:

- Who is the branch?
- What does the branch do?
- What is your project?
- How do you know there is a need for it?
- Why are you the best people to solve this need?
- What will it cost?
- How will you know if you have been successful?

Why are you asking for a grant?

We'd like to build up our financial resources to be able to award more grants to local people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). This may be a family member or carer, as well as someone who has a diagnosis of MS.

What does the project you are applying for seek to do?

The support work of the branch includes providing financial help and information about the condition for people affected by MS in [name of your area].

As well as offering a listening ear, providing information and signposting to other services, we give grants to people who can't afford essential facilities and equipment such as a stair lift or powered wheelchair. Before awarding a grant, we help people explore other potential sources of funding, for example statutory and third sector providers.

What group of people will your project help? Tell us about your clients.

Anyone affected by MS - this may be a person with MS, someone who cares for them or a family member. MS is the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults - estimated to be approximately [number] people in the area the branch serves [divide local population by 600].

Roughly how many people benefit from your work in an average month?

We respond to an average of [number] telephone calls and emails every week from people

seeking information and support.

In our last financial year (e.g. January - December 2014) we awarded [number] of grants to people totalling £ [amount].

If we'd had enough money we could have awarded a further £ [amount] in grants.

We predict that this figure will only rise as more people become aware of the support that we offer, and as financial help from statutory sources decreases.

Why are you the best people to solve this need?

Our branch team has been awarding support grants since its inception in [19--].

We have strong links with the local MS community and professionals such as MS nurses, which puts us in a strong position to make people who might benefit from a grant aware of the opportunity to apply.

We have in place a robust grantmaking policy which helps ensure that all applications are considered fairly and equally. Guidance and support is available if required from our national grants team.

What will it cost?

With support from the [name of trust you are applying to] and other funders, we aim to increase the total value of such grants we are able to make from £ [amount] to £ [amount] in our next financial year.

We believe that £ [amount] of this can be found from our existing fundraising so are seeking an additional £ [amount] of funding.

How will you know if you have been successful?

Success will be recognised and celebrated by measuring and recording the:

- number of applications received - target [number]
- number of grants made [number]
- value of grants made £ [amount]

We will also seek feedback from local people affected by MS and professionals to ensure that, as far as possible, we are meeting the local need in an appropriate manner.

Sources of support

Whatever you do as an MS Society volunteer, we've got the latest news and information to help you carry out your role on our **volunteer website**, <http://volunteers.mssociety.org.uk/>

Your **Local Networks Officer** or **Area Fundraiser** are also available to answer any questions you may have.