



## B2: Funding branch grantmaking

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Grantmaking trusts and foundations exist solely to make grants to meet their agreed charitable purposes - which may be general or specific. Many are charities themselves, run on a voluntary basis by a board of trustees.

As demand for financial support increases and requests become more expensive, you may find it helpful to develop relationships with local grantmakers.

There are two ways your branch can benefit from applying to appropriate local charitable sources of support:

1. You can apply for funding for individual grant requests
2. You can apply for funding for your branch grantmaking programme

### Funding for individual grant requests

We are sometimes asked why we request so much information on our application form. As well as seeking specific information to assist the branch and the **Grants Team** to consider the application, the form also contains sections which may help us to find other sources of funding, enabling our resources to go further.

The **Grants Team** can assist you in looking for possible local and national funding for individual grant applications, but your committee should also consider developing relationships with local grantmakers who may be able to fund or part fund grants.

**Top tip:** Contact details for staff referred to can be found in [Appendix 1: Sources of support](#). Job titles rather than names are used so that this publication doesn't date when somebody leaves their post.

Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and Round Tables are active in supporting local people and could prove a vital source of potential funding and local connections.

Local groups such as Masonic and Buffalo Lodges exist for the mutual benefit of their members, so may be relevant if the applicant is a member of such an organisation.

**Top tip:** Your local **Citizens Advice Bureau, Council for Voluntary Service** or library should have an up-to-date list of these organisations, or you should be able to find them online or in the phone book. Building up this network of connections can lead on to other helpful forms of support as these organisations can also be useful sources of information.

In addition, there are a huge number of local charities, often long established and sometimes going back hundreds of years. Generally these were originally set up to help the poor of particular parishes, and because of their history, eligibility is based on residence in often very small, particular locations. A good source for these charities is the book **A Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need**, which can be purchased through [www.dsc.org.uk](http://www.dsc.org.uk), or accessed in local libraries. The **Grants Team** has a copy and can look up information for you.

## Armed forces

For people who have served time in the Armed Forces (including National Service and the Merchant Navy) you should make contact with the national organisation SSAFA Forces Help, who have local branches across the country. They coordinate many of the Forces' benevolent funds and are always happy to give information and advice. Visit <https://www.ssafa.org.uk> or call 0845 241 7141 to find your local branch.

## Funding your branch grantmaking programme

Applying to charitable trusts and foundations is an excellent way to help fund your branch grantmaking programme. Although researching and writing grant applications may feel time consuming, the possible returns on this investment make it a worthwhile use of branch time.

Trusts tend to prefer specific projects, so you are more likely to be successful applying for funding for your grantmaking programme than for general branch running costs.

## Resources to help you make an application

We've developed a range of resources your branch can use to make more and better applications to charitable trusts and foundations to help fund your branch grantmaking programme.

## Finding a suitable grantmaker

Your **Area Fundraiser** maintains a database of potential funders your branch can apply to. You'll also find links to a number of external websites that can help on our **volunteer website**, <http://volunteers.mssociety.org.uk/finding-grant-making-trusts>

### Coordinating your application

You can apply to any local trust or foundation where the MS Society is not able to apply nationally. It's important to coordinate your application with your **Area Fundraiser** as most trusts only consider one application from the same charity at a time and more than one branch may be eligible to apply.

### Are you eligible to apply?

You'll often need to contact a grantmaker to check whether you meet their eligibility criteria. This is a good opportunity to tell them about the MS Society and let them know how their money can help us provide financial support locally.

We've created a **core script** of ways to explain MS and the effect that it has. This script is in varying lengths to ensure a version which will suit your needs, ranging from a 200 word summary to just one sentence.

**Find out  
more**

You can download our **core script**:

- on our **volunteer website**, <http://volunteers.mssociety.org.uk/core-script>
- or contact the **Communications Team** for a printed copy

### Important things to consider

Find out more about what to think about before you make a trust application on our **volunteer website**, <http://volunteers.mssociety.org.uk/applying-local-trust/important-things-consider>

### Making an application

Trusts receive many applications and trustees are often busy volunteers. They'll need to understand your application quickly and easily, which is why it's important that your application is a clear, concise and accurate description of your project and what it means to people affected by MS.

You'll find tips on writing funding applications, guidance on typical questions a trust might ask and covering letter templates on our **volunteer website**, <http://volunteers.mssociety.org.uk/funding-branch-grantmaking>

## Restricted funds

If your application is successful, the funds you receive are 'restricted' and cannot be used for any purpose other than for support grants.

Your **Branch Treasurer** must record them as a restricted fund and manage that fund accordingly. See [Treasurers' Handbook section 4: Raising branch funds](#).

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