

Guide for volunteers – supporting applicants to find funds from other charities



People who contact your group about grants may need support to find other charities to apply to. It may be that the total cost of what they need is more than the group can offer, or your group may not be able to consider grant applications.

Volunteers are not expected to search for other charities, although some may choose to support in this way. But you do need to be able to signpost people to the right places for this help, and it can be useful to have some background knowledge about other charities.

There are a lot of charities that help groups of people, based on personal details. These include their past work, where they live, their health, religion and other factors.

So you need quite detailed information to find charities that will be relevant to an individual. This means it's often best to signpost the person seeking help to organisations with search tools. But if you'd like to help someone by looking for funders, there's a short form to collect information you'll need for the search, on [the volunteer website](#).

This guide has details of organisations you can signpost people to, for help to look for charities. There are also details of some charities that help with health and disability related items.

Q – Do we have a list of other charities that help with grants?

A – No, we don't keep a list. There's a huge number of charities that help with grants, all with different eligibility rules. It's not possible for us to list them all and keep up to date with changes.

But a couple of organisations have searchable databases of charities that you can use or signpost people to.

Q – Where do I signpost people to, or how do I find other charities that offer grants?

A – A couple of organisations have databases of grant making charities, with search tools to narrow down suitable results:

- Turn2Us. They have a free online grants search at <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/> or through their free Helpline on 0808 802 2000.
- The Directory of Social Change. They publish a book called 'A Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need', and have an online database called 'Grants Online', which has a paid subscription.

Our Helpline can search Grants Online on someone's behalf. Local libraries and councils for voluntary services may have the search software or a copy of the book.



More information about charities that give grants

Charities that give grants usually support specific groups of people. Some of the most relevant are:

- health and disability charities, helping people who have particular health conditions, illnesses or disabilities
- occupational charities, helping people who have worked in particular job roles, trades or industries
- local charities, helping people who come from or live in a specific place
- service charities, helping people who have served in the armed forces

More about health and disability charities

- Some help people who have particular health conditions. Many of these are like us, and offer grants as a small part of a wide reaching organisation.
 - For people affected by MS, the MS Research and Relief Fund offers grants to individuals nationwide (alongside practical services in the north east) <https://ms-researchandrelief.org/>.
 - Other charities may be relevant if people affected by MS or their family members also have other health conditions. For example, Parkinson's UK and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust offer grants to people affected by those conditions.
- Some are more general and help people with any significant health condition, illness, or disability. Grants are usually focused on items that the person needs because of their health or disability.

They generally only accept applications from health or social care professionals (sometimes this includes charity volunteers) and not directly from individuals.

These include:

- Independence at Home <http://independenceathome.org.uk/>
- Florence Nightingale Trust <http://fnaist.org.uk/>
- Barchester's Charitable Foundation <https://bhcfoundation.org.uk/>

More about occupational charities

They help people who have worked in particular job roles, trades or industries. Many have a grants scheme that people with relevant work history can apply to.

- Example of job role related charity: Junius S Morgan Benevolent Fund
They support 'UK registered nurses and midwives, health care assistants in addition to retired UK nurses, midwives and health care assistants'.
- Example of industry related charity: Grocery Aid
They support anyone who has worked in the grocery industry: 'This includes manufacturing, supermarkets, independents, wholesalers, distribution, sales and all support functions.'

- There's a large number of occupational charities, for a wide variety of work roles.
- Each have their own specific eligibility criteria in terms of work history. These can include how long someone needs to have worked in the role for, and how recently they worked. Sometimes this can vary depending on the support being applied for.
- Increasingly, these organisations offer wider support for wellbeing - from counselling services and other mental health support, to debt and money advice. So they can be a valuable resource to signpost someone to.
- The Turn2us database has details of many occupational charities.

More about local charities

There are small local charities that offer grants to people who come from, or live in, particular geographic areas.

- Some are quite old – often historically called things like ‘poverty relief trust’ or ‘sickness trust’ – and may link to historic parish areas. Others may link to a town, city or wider region.
 - Local councils may have directories of local support organisations, including this type of charity.
 - Your local Council for Voluntary Services may be able to provide information. [Search for a local CVS](#) on the NAVCA website.
 - The Turn2us and DSC databases have some local charities listed.
- Some are local branches of larger organisations including Lions, Rotary and Round Table, that fundraise and support local communities – they may choose to support individuals in their area.

This will vary on each club, so you will need to check locally – most have websites with contact details.

More about service charities

They support people who have served in any of the armed forces. There are many different funds – some linked to particular regiments and services, and some more general. There are two main organisations that have trained caseworkers who can help people apply to service funds. You can signpost people to either organisation.

- The Royal British Legion <https://britishlegion.org.uk/>
- SSAFA <https://ssafa.org.uk>

Tips shared by volunteers



- ★ You can try an internet search to look for charities. For example, if you search a job role and the word 'charity' or 'benevolent', you can often find an occupational charity. Or a place name and the word 'charity' can help find local charities.
- ★ Information can go out of date quickly – a charity's forms or rules may change and funds may close if they have spent their budget. So check for updates before you start an application to avoid wasted time and effort.
- ★ For the best chance of getting a grant, people need to make sure they definitely meet eligibility criteria. They need to fully answer all questions and provide all the supporting information they're asked for.
- ★ A lot of charities that give grants have a poverty focus, and may have strict savings and income rules. The applicant needs to carefully check they meet these before spending time applying.
- ★ Many charities receive more applications than they can fund. Applications need to be persuasive but honest. If someone isn't confident about completing an application, they can ask for help from someone with experience. This could be a CAB, carers' service, disability advice or advocacy service for example.
- ★ Don't expect quick results – applications can take months to be processed.
- ★ If someone needs a lot of funding, they might need to apply to several charities. They should keep all the charities they apply to updated – so if one awards a grant, they should let the others know. This can really help to build up total funding – if there's only a small amount still needed, for example, some charities may make a quicker decision.
- ★ Charities often like to work in partnership so that they can share costs and help as many people as possible. So if a large amount is needed, many charities will expect the person to apply to others as well.
- ★ It's worth checking if anyone else in the household has any needs which might make them eligible for grant funding, such as grants for children or carers. Often a grant for any member of the household will benefit all the family.