



BRIGHT FUTURES GRANTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS



SOCIETE
GENERALE
UK FOUNDATION

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS IS THIS GRANT FUNDING DESIGNED FOR?

Bright Futures Grants will support projects and initiatives across the UK which directly support people from marginalised groups to be empowered and equipped to access education and employment. Funded initiatives must demonstrate a clear and measurable impact, ensuring that individuals are supported to develop aspirations, confidence, and/or mental health.

2. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF MARGINALISED GROUPS?

Marginalised groups consist of people who, due to their cultural, historical, and social context, are at greater risk of facing multiple forms of discrimination. This occurs when different aspects of their identity - such as sex, gender, age, ethnicity, religion or belief, health status, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, education, income, or place of residence - intersect. Whether individuals belong to these groups or are merely perceived as members, they are more likely to encounter inequalities. These disparities can limit their access to fundamental rights, services, and resources in areas such as education, employment, healthcare, social and housing support, protection from violence (whether domestic or institutional), and justice.

3. CAN YOU PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF PROJECTS THAT MIGHT BE FUNDED?

Here are some examples of projects that use their expertise to deliver activities that help people from marginalised groups develop aspirations, confidence and mental health:

1. Youth Mentorship and Career Development Programs (Aspirations & Confidence)

- Example: The project supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with mentors who provide guidance, encouragement, and exposure to career pathways, helping them set goals and build confidence in their abilities.
- Example: The project supports young people from underprivileged communities to access higher education through academic support, mentoring, and career workshops.

2. Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Initiatives (Mental Health & Confidence)

- Example: the project works to improve mental health outcomes for Black communities through culturally appropriate services, advocacy, and peer support networks.
- Example: The project is an online community offering mental health support and reducing social isolation for marginalized individuals.

3. Employment and Skills Training Programs (Confidence & Aspirations)

- Example: a project that provides free coding training for refugees, asylum seekers, and individuals from low-income backgrounds, equipping them with tech skills and pathways to employment.
- Example: A project that supports women, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, to gain skills, qualifications, and job placements in the construction industry.

4. Social Enterprises and Community-Led Initiatives (Aspirations, Confidence, Mental Health)

- Example: The project helps young people facing barriers to employment by offering entrepreneurship programs, vocational training, and confidence-building workshops.
- Example: The project employs refugees and young people seeking asylum as market stall vendors, helping them build work experience, financial independence, and social connections.

4. DO THE PROJECTS NEED TO DEVELOP SKILLS, ATTRIBUTES, AND ATTITUDES?

Yes — absolutely. These kinds of projects do need to focus on developing not just skills, but also attributes and attitudes. Here are some examples:

Outcome	Project Example	Skills Developed	Attributes Developed	Attitudes Developed
Aspirations	Youth mentorship and career development	Goal setting, career exploration	Ambition, leadership potential	Motivation, self-belief, future orientation
Confidence	Women in construction training	Practical trade skills, teamwork	Determination, assertiveness	Breaking stereotypes, can-do attitude
Mental Health	Online mental health communities	Digital communication, peer support	Compassion, connection	Reduced stigma, sense of belonging

5. WHY IS THE GRANT A TWO-STAGE PROCESS?

A two-stage grant process:

- Saves applicants time and resources by requiring only a brief concept note or summary at the first stage.
- Gives applicants a sense of whether their project aligns with the funder's priorities before committing to a full application.
- Allows applicants to propose creative ideas in the first stage without the pressure of preparing a full proposal upfront.
- Allows more organisations, including smaller or less-experienced ones, to apply without the initial burden of a full proposal.
- Has fewer competitors in the second stage, meaning applicants have a better chance of receiving funding.
- Gives shortlisted applicants more time to refine their proposals during the second stage, leading to stronger submissions.

6. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS?

- Following the EOI stage, successful organisations will be invited to complete a formal application, scheduled to launch on 25 June 2025.
- The deadline for applications to be submitted is at midday on 31 July 2025.
- Applications can only be submitted via the CAF online portal. Uninvited applications will be excluded.
- Applications will be shortlisted by CAF based on agreed eligibility criteria, reviewed by the Bright Futures Committee and recommendations provided for the SG UK Foundation Board of Trustees to approve.

7. IS THERE FLEXIBILITY IN THE DEADLINE?

No, there is no flexibility with the deadline. If you are invited to apply, please make sure you submit your grant application by midday GMT on 31 July 2025.

8. CAN ORGANISATIONS SUBMIT A FORMAL APPLICATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ANOTHER ORGANISATION NAMED ON THE EOI?

Yes, however, there would need to be one lead applicant to complete and submit the application form. This would normally be the organisation registered with the Charity Commission and that would manage the budget of the grant award.

9. HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

Organisations can apply for unrestricted project funding of between £10,000 to £50,000 per project. Applicants should not apply for a grant that exceeds 30% of the last year's income of your organisation.

10. CAN I APPLY FOR MULTI-YEAR FUNDING?

In its pilot year, the BFG will be for one-year funding only. There may be future opportunities for multi-year funding after the BFG approach has been tested and revised.

11. CAN I APPLY FOR COSTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN INCURRED?

No, expenditure must only be incurred after the BFG is awarded.

12. WHAT DOES UNRESTRICTED PROJECT FUNDING MEAN?

This means that the use of funds is flexible and unrestricted within the parameters of the project. So, funds can be spent on resources that are needed most. However, we would like to see an estimated budget breakdown in the full application.

13. CAN I APPLY AS AN INDIVIDUAL?

Funding is not provided to individuals. Applicants need to apply on behalf of a charity or organisation with a recognised charitable purpose.

14. IF I AM UNABLE TO SEND THE SUPPORTING INFORMATION, WILL IT NEGATIVELY AFFECT MY APPLICATION?

Supporting documents are required for CAF to perform relevant due diligence checks. Therefore, applications without supporting documents will not be considered for a grant.

15. WHEN WILL FUNDING BE AWARDED?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome in early October.

For successful organisations, the majority of funding awards will be granted from mid-October onwards. For those that are not registered with the Charity Commission, organisations will need to be validated by the CAF verification team first and so payments may take a little longer to turnaround.

16. IF I'M UNSUCCESSFUL IN THIS ROUND, CAN I APPLY AGAIN?

Organisations who are not successful in the first funding round will be able to submit an Expression of Interest in the next calendar year's Bright Futures Grants funding round. Further information will be shared nearer the launch date, expected in spring annually.

17. IF I'M SUCCESSFUL IN THIS ROUND, CAN I APPLY AGAIN?

Organisations who are successful in being awarded a Bright Futures Grant may be invited to apply for repeat funding for their existing project or for a different project. Multi-year funding will be reviewed after the pilot year.

18. IF I'M SUCCESSFUL IN RECEIVING FUNDING, CAN I RE-APPLY WITH A DIFFERENT PROJECT?

Organisations will only be eligible for one grant award per year. This is to ensure the funding is shared fairly and with as many organisations as possible.

Organisations who are successful in being awarded a Bright Futures Grant, may submit an Expression of interest for the same or for a different project in the next funding cycle providing they are not applying for more than one grant.

19. WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE A QUESTION OR AN ISSUE?

Organisations can email the CAF team at BrightFuturesGrants@cafonline.org with any questions or for any support with the EOI or application form.