

## Women's Urgent Support Fund Round 2

**SMALLWOODTRUST**

### FAQ

Last updated 08/05/2024

#### **Can I apply if I have previously or currently have a grant from Smallwood?**

Yes, we encourage both organisations we already work with to apply as well as new organisations to apply.

#### **Can I apply if I have a grant through the Women's Urgent Support Fund Round 1?**

No, organisation receiving a grant from Round 1 cannot apply to Round 2.

#### **I am not a registered charity, can I apply?**

Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria including being not for profit. Please see the Guidance Notes for more information. Previous types of organisations we have funded include: CIC's, Co-operatives and not-for profit companies.

#### **Is there a maximum or minimum income for organisations?**

There is no minimum income. The maximum turnover is £1,000,000.

#### **When will grant decisions be made and funding start?**

All Expression of Interest outcomes will be communicated by the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> July and we expect grants to commence from November/December onwards.

#### **What can I apply for?**

You can apply for funding to support organisational as well as project costs as long as you can demonstrate they are helping with the costs of living crisis. Eligible spend includes: salaries, organisational running costs/ and overheads, especially where they offset the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. A full list of eligible funding requests can be found in the Guidance Notes.

#### **Are project costs eligible?**

The funding can be used for the provision of services and goods to women in your community to meet their immediate needs resulting from the cost-of-living crisis.

**Are cash grants or contributions in kind eligible (i.e. a contribution in goods or services, as opposed to money)?**

Cash grants directly given to women in the community are not eligible with this funding. The provision of emergency support to meet the urgent needs of women in the community through, for example, normal charitable support such as welfare packs, vouchers, food or clothing are eligible, and should be purchased by the organisation to distribute to women in your community. Separately Smallwood have another programme that delivers cash grants.

**Can we apply for more than £20,000 per annum?**

The funding is for a maximum of £20,000 per annum for three years. The maximum grant therefore is £60,000 total grant over 3 years.

**What is the minimum amount we can apply for?**

You can apply for a minimum of £15,000 over 3 years.

**Can national or local arms of national organisations apply?**

If you are a local branch of a larger organisation that is delivering frontline services to women, you may still be eligible to apply. We ask that you are able to provide the following in order to apply:

- Your own UK based bank account
  - Your own management committee with at least 3 unrelated members
  - A written governing document (for example a constitution, memorandum and Articles of Association or set of rules) specific to your branch activity
- A set of accounts showing under £1,000,000 income

**We are based outside of England, can we apply?**

Funding must be used on projects being delivered in England to participants who live in England.

**How did you decide on the priority groups for funding? Can I still apply if my organisation is not working in a priority area or with a priority groups?**

Yes. The fund is open to organisations operating across England. As this fund is focussed on a response to the cost of living crisis we encourage applicants to articulate how this has impacted your organisation, staff and beneficiaries.

We always receive more applications than we are able to fund so we have to make difficult decisions to spend the available funds as effectively as possible. For this round, we expect to award c.35 grants.

For this round we are particularly looking to fund applications from frontline services led by, for and/or serving women in areas of the country that are among the most disadvantaged and with priority groups of women that are some of those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis. This includes but is not limited to the list of priorities in the guidance notes.

### **Can your funding support organisations working with women under 18?**

Our funding can only support women aged 18 and above but you can still apply if your organisation works with women aged under 18 as long as you do not use our funds for this part of your work.

### **My organisation also works with men, can I apply?**

Yes, but we cannot fund any work with men as it is outside our charitable purpose and you would need to ensure funding is apportioned only to work with women. We ask that you clearly show how supporting women is a key objective of your organisation.

### **Does the fund cover services including transgender and non-binary people?**

We take an intersectional approach in that women's poverty is largely explained by the unequal position of women in society which is exacerbated by caring status, ethnicity, health, age, sexuality, gender identity and disability. Systems such as the labour market, the design of social security and the role of paid and unpaid care all contribute to gendered poverty. Without a gender lens, existing gender differences and inequalities are reinforced, and the root causes of gendered poverty persist.

Our funding rounds are open to organisations that reflect various expertise and views across the sector including organisations that work with transgender and non-binary people, and those that do not. Smallwood hosts a successful history of funding specialist services on the basis that our partners understand how to best meet the needs of the communities they serve and will continue to do so throughout all funding opportunities.

### **What do you mean by 'frontline services led by, for and/or serving women'?**

We define women's organisations and services as those run for and with women. The principal objective of organisations and services we fund will be working with women, and the majority of those they support must be women. We fund organisations so that they can tailor their offer to the needs of their specific community, and have a track record in providing specialist women's services within their community.

### **What do you mean by 'women experiencing racial inequality'?**

We are using the DEI data standard for this Fund:

*This refers to communities that experience inequity as a result of their race or ethnic group. Ethnic group refers to the group that people self-identify with, which may be related to their national/geographical origin, skin colours, and other identities. This is often referred to as "Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic" or BAME.*

More information on the DEI data standard can be found here:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DXP9e-FcwzDBCLDi5cpudjURHVcTpeof/view>

**Do you have accessibility support for this Fund?**

We will try to support you to apply in your preferred language. Please contact our programme manager, Rosie Learmonth at [grants@smallwoodtrust.org.uk](mailto:grants@smallwoodtrust.org.uk) for support with this.

Yes. A contribution of up to £200 can be requested for applicants who require accessibility support to apply to the Women's Urgent Support Fund Round 2, such as BSL interpreter, translator or extra staff time required to complete the Expression of Interest form. Please email us to request further guidance and a short application form.

If you would prefer to fill in the application form in another language, please contact us at [grants@smallwoodtrust.org.uk](mailto:grants@smallwoodtrust.org.uk). We will try to support you to apply in your preferred language and will discuss this with you.

**My organisation needs support completing its application to the Women's Urgent Support Fund. Where can I go?**

The [Charity Excellence Framework](#) hosts a range of resources and training to support organisations seeking funding and we encourage you to take advantage if you need help. All information is readily available and free to use.

**I do not understand a question on the application form. Can you help?**

Please see our Guidance Notes for detailed criteria and eligibility information that will help you understand the information we are looking for applicants to convey. If you need any support via email or phone please contact [grants@smallwoodtrust.org.uk](mailto:grants@smallwoodtrust.org.uk) to arrange this.

**My organisation has been around for less than a year. Can we still apply?**

Yes. We ask that you check your full eligibility through our Guidance Notes before applying.

**My organisation does not have its own bank account. Can we still apply?**

Please let us know in advance if this is something you would need if successful with the Women's Urgent Support Fund and we will aim to support you with this. In cases such as these a trusted organisation can hold funds and disperse instalments to you. Please note that the organisation holding funds needs to:

- Have a UK based bank account with two unrelated signatories and
- Provide verification of bank details if awarded funding

### **Can organisations apply as a partnership?**

Yes, we accept applications from a partnership. If you choose to do so we would ask for a short rationale showing why a partnership is best placed to apply rather than an individual organisation. We also ask that one organisation holds the funds as part of this arrangement and both organisations submit relevant supporting documents. Please contact us and we will advise further on the process for partnership applications.

Please note that all organisations in a partnership must meet the eligibility criteria.

### **My organisation is a national charity with individual centres/groups that host their own charity number, bank account and Trustee Board. The umbrella organisation is not eligible to apply due to the income threshold, but the centres are eligible as individual entities. Can our centres/groups apply?**

Yes, you can submit applications as separate organisations if all eligibility criteria is met.

### **How much should we allocate to salaries in our budget?**

We are a Living Wage Employer and Friendly Funder, which means that we would like to see a Living Wage in place for the posts we fund that are in line with current inflation rates. We encourage applicants to insert these salary increases under each year in the budget section of the application form.

If you are unsure what the Living Wage is in your area, the [Living Wage Foundation](#) has helpful information to guide you.

If increasing the salary in this way is problematic for your organisation please discuss this with us.

### **What if my question is not answered here?**

If you have another question or would just like to speak to someone, please email our Programme Manager Rosie Learmonth at [grants@smallwoodtrust.org.uk](mailto:grants@smallwoodtrust.org.uk).