

SGSG Alms Charity - Grants Policy & Guidelines (for Organisations)

The charity has recently conducted a strategic review of its grant-making, which has resulted in a revised grants policy.

Grants Policy

The St Giles & St George Alms charity aims to relieve poverty. We hope to achieve this by awarding grants to organisations who provide services or facilities or funding to people living in our area of benefit, particularly those who are experiencing social or financial deprivation and/or ill health.

The Trustees have chosen three priorities, so we focus our funding on projects that support:

- Isolated older people
- Homeless people (including those at risk and formerly homeless)
- Access to independent advice

We offer two types of grants:

Project Funding – the costs of your organisation providing services to people in our target groups AND in our area of benefit. We offer grants of up to £8,000 per annum for up to three years.

Block Grants – funds that are used to meet the needs of your beneficiaries on an individual basis. We would expect this to be a long-term partnership with any initial grant lasting 12–18 months which can then be renewed. These grants are usually up to £5,000.

We DO NOT accept unsolicited applications but if you think you have an appropriate project, please contact the Clerk for a discussion. If you are invited to apply, then we will send you a link to our online application form.

More detailed guidelines can be found below.

Project Funding – detailed guidelines

Grant-giving principles

- We seek to identify funding gaps and respond positively where appropriate.
- We do not discriminate (and expect our grantees to be non-discriminatory).
- We will contribute towards managements and overheads.
- We will fund existing services that are losing funding/need match funding as well as new initiatives.

Multi-year funding – these grants are only available:

- for local organisations who have recently received funding from the charity.
- for projects/organisations that can demonstrate a track record and reputation of providing the proposed service in the area of benefit (ie, existing projects).

What do we not fund?

- Large national charities;
- Statutory obligations;
- Work that has already taken place (or paid for) before the application was approved;
- Funding for organisations to build their financial reserves;
- Organisations with significant unrestricted reserves.

Application & Assessment

All organisations will need to apply online. This will be subject to our usual assessment processes and will be considered at a quarterly Trustee meeting. Therefore, you should expect it to take approx 3 months. We may be able to consider one-off applications more quickly if there is a particular time pressure.

Grant Award

Any approved grant will be communicated in writing and is subject to our grants terms and conditions.

Grant Monitoring

All grantees will be expected to submit an annual or final project report providing details of:

- Whether your project delivered as expected;
- Who you helped;
- How it helped them;
- How you spent the grant;
- What did you learn.

Applying Again

You can only hold one grant from our charity at any one time. We do not have any limits on when you can apply for funding again (either at the end of a grant or after an unsuccessful application).

Block Grant – detailed guidelines

Application & Assessment

All organisations will need to apply online so that we have full details about your organisation and the proposed project. This will be subject to our usual assessment processes and will be considered at the Trustee Board meeting.

Grant Award

Any approved grant will be subject to our usual grant terms and conditions. The level of grant is expected to be sufficient to support your beneficiaries for approx 12–18 months. The grant may also be subject to additional criteria about eligibility or grant levels that are appropriate to your clients' needs.

Grant Monitoring

These grants are for your individual beneficiaries and we expect you to be able to explain:

- Why a specific individual should receive a grant (what is their need and why them and not another beneficiary)?
- What is the grant for?
- How much is awarded?
- How much is spent?
- How does the grant make your beneficiaries' life better – immediate and any longer-term outcomes?

We have prepared a spreadsheet to help you to provide all of this information. We also expect you to collect gender/ethnicity/age/disability information and provide this on an aggregate basis.

We ask for a very short update every quarter (number of beneficiaries and spend to date) so that we can keep track of demand and how quickly you are using the grant.

Grant Renewal

We expect this type of grant to be a long-term partnership. You can ask to renew the grant when funds are running low just by sending an email or written request (no need to apply again). If there are any funds left over, then you should carry them forward.

At the end of each 'grant' we expect the completed spreadsheet with all the information about beneficiaries and expenditure. We will also send a link to our online monitoring form, and this is an opportunity to reflect on any changes that occurred during the project and/or lessons learnt. It is also a great chance to send any photographs or case studies to supplement the monitoring data.