Large Grants Overview

November 2026

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- Established in 1961 by the three Robertson Sisters
- We are here to prevent and reduce poverty and associated complex trauma in Scotland - funding, supporting, and influencing solutions to drive social change.
- Awarding £200M over the course of our 10-year strategy



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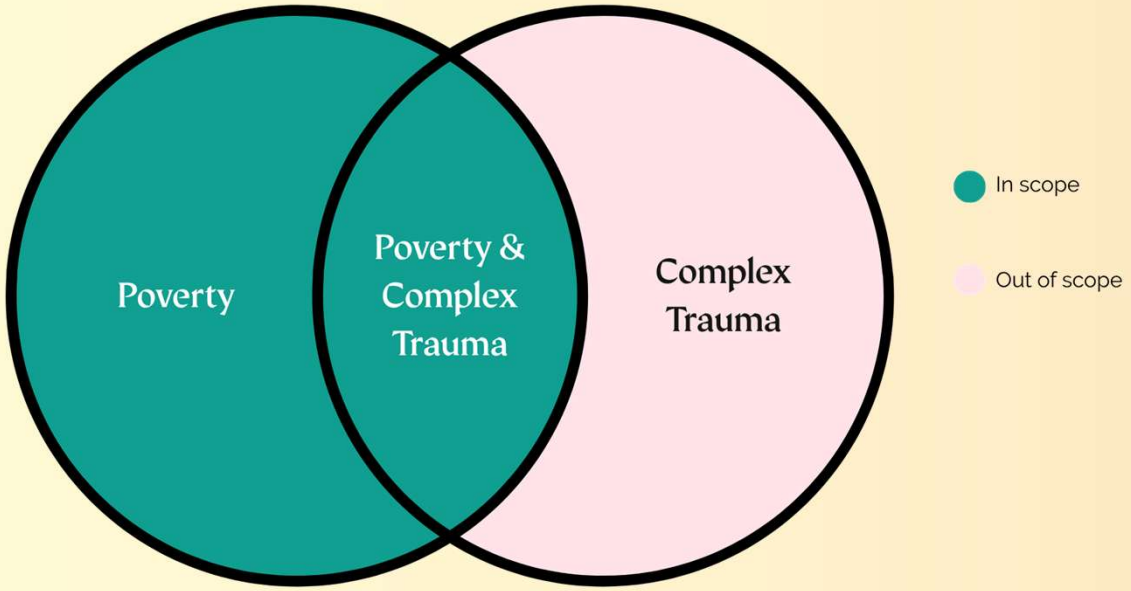
Poverty and Trauma



We want to support work that seeks to prevent or reduce poverty and associated complex trauma for people and places in Scotland.

We know that often where people experience poverty, they may also experience related types of trauma.

We are concerned specifically with the trauma that impacts within families and where a significant contributing factor is the experience of poverty, especially deep and enduring poverty.

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Our Funds Snapshot



Community Spaces



Large Grants



Small Grants



Wee Grants

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Eligibility Criteria

Large Grants are for:

- **Registered charities**
- Organisations working to prevent and reduce **poverty** and **associated trauma**
- Work that takes place in **Scotland**
- Organisations who have an annual income between **£200,000 - £2 million***
- Current grantholders can reapply **up to 8 months** before their grant ends.

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Other Funding Opportunities

Big Change That Lasts Fund
(programmes@therobertsontrust.org.uk)

- Organisations with an income of over £200K
- Registered charities, asset-locked CICs limited by guarantee, housing associations and Credit Unions can apply
- Focus on long-term, systemic change to tackle underlying causes of poverty
- Restricted project funding from £20k - £500k up to 5 years
- Currently prioritising applications that focus on Financial Security



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What do I need to apply?

- At least **three unconnected Trustees** on your charity's Board.
- Recent **independently examined or audited annual accounts** (unless you are a newly registered charity).
- A **bank account** in the name of your charity, with two unconnected people required to make every withdrawal or payment.
- A **safeguarding policy** if working with young or vulnerable people.
- A policy on **equality, diversity and inclusion.**
- A **full job description** if your request is for funding towards a specific salary cost.

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Our Themes | Financial Security

Addressing the financial and material effects of poverty on people and communities

Priorities:

- helps people who are struggling with **day-to-day costs**
- creates access to **advice, support and advocacy** around social security, debt reduction, income maximisation, housing



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Our Themes | Nurturing Relationships

Supporting nurturing relationships within families and communities, to help break the cycle between persistent poverty and intergenerational trauma, and support recovery.

Priorities:

1. **Preventative support** for families in poverty (including children and their caregivers), to help build and maintain strong family relationships, and reduce the risk of intergenerational trauma.

2. **Whole family support** for families (including children and their caregivers) in care, or on the edges of care, to address the impacts of persistent poverty and intergenerational trauma

3. **Crisis support** at the point of family breakdown, including support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

4. **Recovery and restorative approaches** to address the impacts of childhood trauma, homelessness, substance misuse and/or contact with the criminal justice system.



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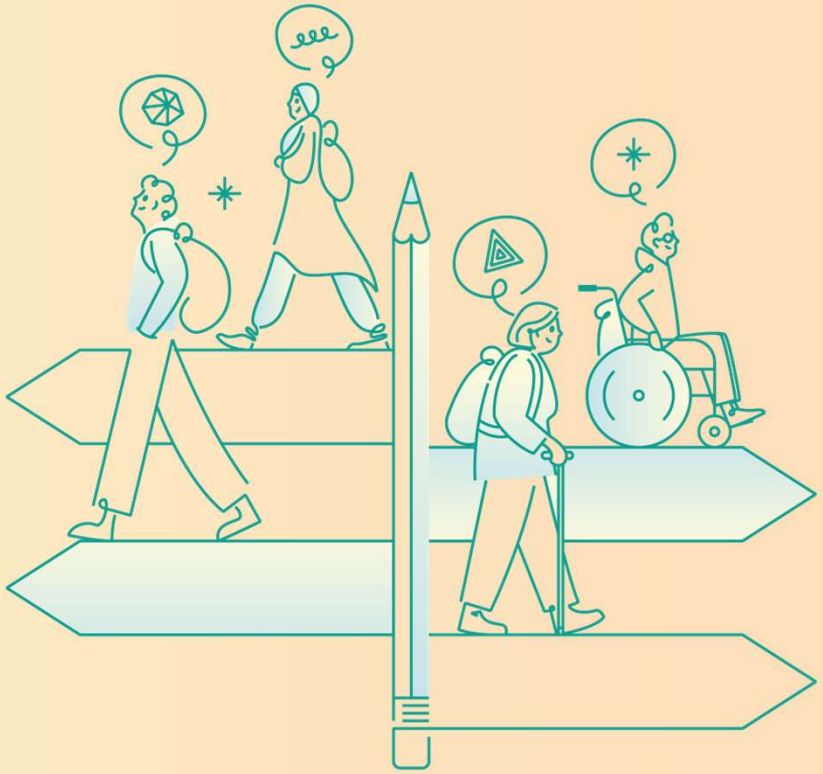
Our Themes | Education Pathways

Equipping people for the future by supporting learning and skills

Priorities:

- supports **educational engagement** amongst children and young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing poverty
- supports **educational attainment** amongst children and young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing poverty
- supports the **engagement of parents and wider family members** (of children and young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing poverty) in their child's education and learning



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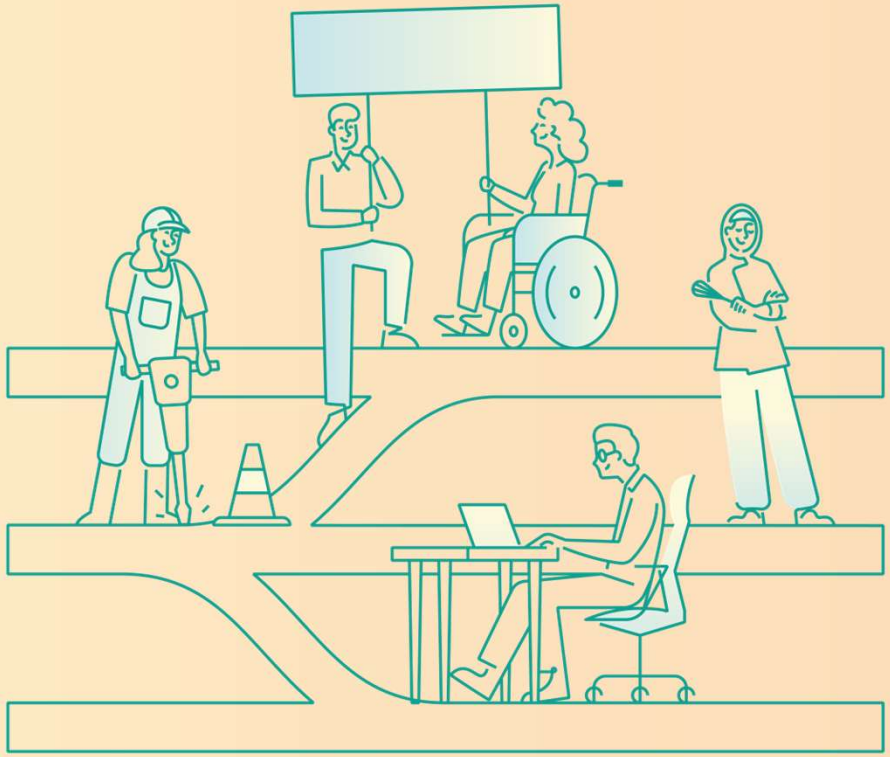
Our Themes | Work Pathways

Ensuring paid work is a more reliable route out of poverty and removing barriers so that more people can access fair work.

Priorities:

- supports people experiencing or at risk of experiencing poverty with the **transition through education and training** into good or fair work
- supports people experiencing or at risk of experiencing poverty with the **skills** they require to secure good and fair work
- addresses the **financial and other significant barriers** to employment, training and work.



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Large Grants – What funding is available?

Can provide **restricted or unrestricted** funding

Awards between **£20K to £50K** per year

Typically for **3 years**

May consider up to 5 years for strongly aligned requests with focus on prevention or longer-term change work, that demonstrates leading or best practice



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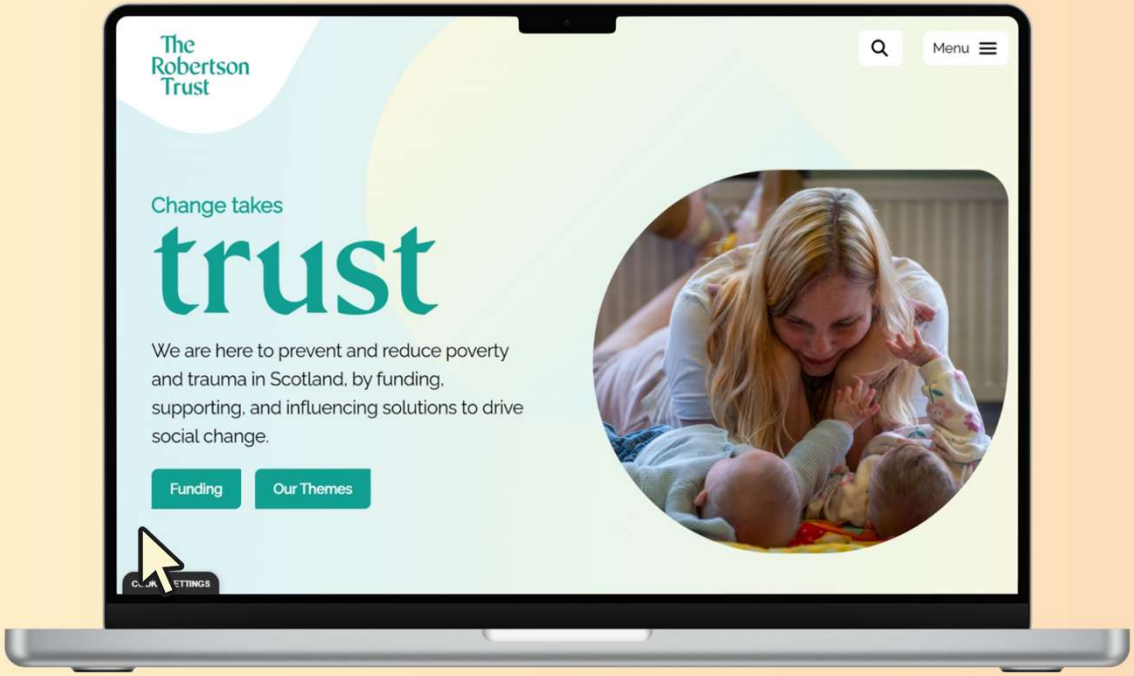
What we don't fund

- **Capital costs** such as building or renovation works
- **1-2-1 counselling** or **general mental health support** in isolation
- **Funding for individuals** which will primarily benefit only one or a very small group of individuals
- Projects and activities which incorporate the **promotion of religious (or political) beliefs**, or requests for salaried posts and volunteer costs where there is a requirement to be of a particular faith or none
- Standalone costs of **childcare provision**, although we may consider this as part of a broader programme of support
- **Day care** or **residential care** for older people
- **Curricular activity** in schools
- Any **costs not incurred** by (or the salaries of staff not directly employed by) the applicant organisation
- The salary costs of staff who are also **Trustees/Directors** on the applicant organisation's Board

Large Grants Application Process

- Two stage application process: an **initial enquiry** followed by a **full application** and assessment.
- We accept initial enquiries on a rolling basis, with no closing dates.



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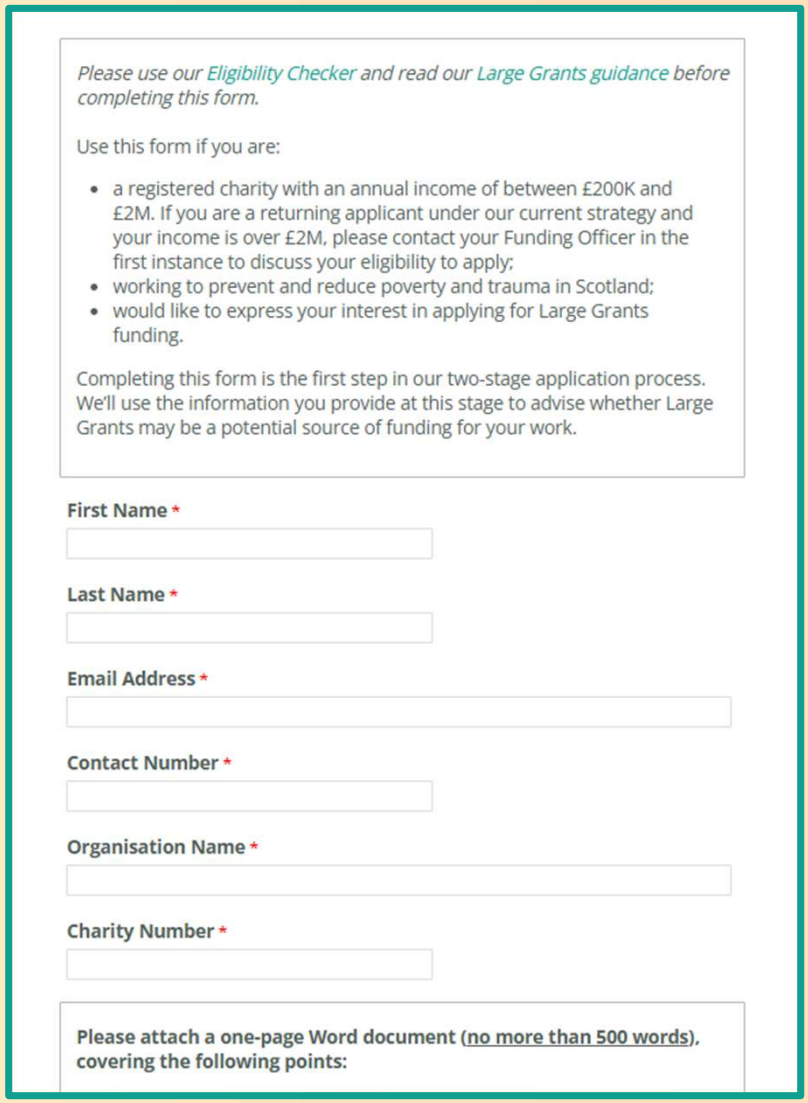
Stage One – Initial Enquiry

Your one-page proposal should include:

- a **short summary of the work** you'd like us to fund
- **who** this work will support
- the **need** you are addressing and why it matters now
- the **differences** you expect to achieve, aligned with our **themes and priorities**
- why your organisation is **best placed** to deliver this work
- **how much funding** you are requesting
- **when** you need the funding and for **how many years**



Please use our Eligibility Checker and read our Large Grants guidance before completing this form.

Use this form if you are:

- a registered charity with an annual income of between £200K and £2M. If you are a returning applicant under our current strategy and your income is over £2M, please contact your Funding Officer in the first instance to discuss your eligibility to apply;
- working to prevent and reduce poverty and trauma in Scotland;
- would like to express your interest in applying for Large Grants funding.

Completing this form is the first step in our two-stage application process. We'll use the information you provide at this stage to advise whether Large Grants may be a potential source of funding for your work.

First Name *

Last Name *

Email Address *

Contact Number *

Organisation Name *

Charity Number *

Please attach a one-page Word document (no more than 500 words), covering the following points:

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What happens next?

We will **review your enquiry and publicly available information** such as your website and your accounts.

We will respond within **4-6 weeks**.

If fundable, you will receive a link to our full application form to provide more details. We'll let you know the deadline by which you need to send us your application.

If your work isn't something we could support, we'll email you and let you know the reason why.

If we receive more fundable enquiries than we can invite to apply, we'll **prioritise those requests which have the strongest alignment** with our funding priorities.

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What do we look for in a full application?

Focus on preventing or reducing **poverty** and **complex trauma**



Focus on **community participation**



Focus on **collaboration**



Focus on **relationships and rights**



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Other criteria we consider

- **The size of grant your organisation is asking for, relative to its annual income** – we try to be proportionate in how much we award.
- **Your organisation's financial position**, including its sustainability and whether it has an immediate need for our funds.
- How your organisation is **governed**.
- **The scale of your organisation's work**, for example delivered at local, regional or national levels, and the number of people it will support.



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What happens at Stage 2?

We'll email you to confirm we've got your Stage 2 application.

We'll assign one of our Funding Officers to assess your application. They may get in touch with you during the assessment period and will be able to help you with any changes or updates you might need to make to your application.

Decisions will usually be made within 12 weeks. This is dependent on receiving any additional information we may ask for – delays in receiving this extra information could mean the decision takes longer.

We'll send all correspondence about your application via email, so it's important that the email addresses and contact details you provide in your application are correct.



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Top Tips

- **Read the guidance**. Are you eligible, does the work fit with our themes and priority areas, can you provide the paperwork we ask for?
- Use the **Recite Me accessibility tools** on the website.
- Keep it **simple** and use **plain language** in your application.
- Tells us about the **issues your work will address**. Don't assume we know the difference the work will make.
- Be **specific** where possible, give us **examples** to illustrate the impact of your work.
- Make sure any **budget** you provide clearly summarises all the projected costs of the work and allow for inflation year on year.
- Address any **high balances** shown within the financial information you provide.
- Start your application on **Word** and copy over into our online form.
- If **using AI**, ensure your application reflects your organisation's own ideas, plans, and evidence

Any questions?

Please use the Q+A chat function to send your questions

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Thank you

152 Bath Street
Glasgow G2 4TB
Tel. 0141 353 7300

funding@therobertsontrust.org.uk
www.therobertsontrust.org.uk

The Robertson Trust is a registered Scottish Charity. No. SC002970

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