



Guidance: Applying for a Community Vehicle Grant

If you have any communication support needs that make reading this guidance or completing an application form difficult or impossible, please contact us on 0141 353 4321 or funding@therobertsontrust.org.uk to discuss alternative ways you can apply.

Who and what are Community Vehicle Grants for?

- For registered charities working in Scotland, with an annual income* of £25,000 to £2 million, who are supporting people (at risk of) experiencing poverty or trauma
- Funding of £1,000 to £10,000 towards the costs of the purchase or upgrade of a vehicle used by your charity
- Apply any time – no set closing date.

***Definition:**

Annual Income: This is based on the money your organisation received in the last financial year, as shown in your most recent annual accounts. If you are a new organisation, which has not yet produced accounts, you can base this on the income you expect to bring in in the year ahead.

As a general rule, we will only accept applications for Community Vehicle Grants from charities whose annual income is between £25K and £2M. There are some cases where we will make exceptions, for example, if your income last year was less than £25K but you are growing your activities and projecting increased costs; or if your income was over £2M due to one-off funding for a capital project, or additional services delivered to support your community during the pandemic. If you would like to be considered for a Community Vehicle Grant but you're still not sure if it's right for your charity, please call us on 0141 353 4321 to discuss.

Who can't apply?

- **Charities who received funding from us for a Community Vehicle within the past 12 months.** If you wish to reapply for further Community Vehicle funding once your current grant ends, please call us first to discuss.

- **Charities who unsuccessfully applied** to our previous Open Grants programme (which closed in early 2020) within the past 12 months. You can reapply once 12 months from the date of your decline email has passed.
- **Housing Associations and Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs).** These types of organisation are not currently eligible for funding from us. However, we are committed to reviewing our guidance and criteria across the course of our strategy. To be kept informed, please [sign up to our mailing list on our website.](#)

What do I need to apply?

- **A minimum of three unconnected Trustees on your charity's Board.** By unconnected we mean not related by blood; married to each other; in a relationship with each other or living together at the same address.
- **Recent independently examined or audited annual accounts.** If your organisation is a newly registered charity which has not yet produced accounts, we'll ask you to send us details of an independent referee who knows your work well, a recent bank statement and a projection showing your organisation's expected income for its first year.
- **A safeguarding policy.** If your organisation directly supports children and young people or vulnerable adults, we would expect you to have an appropriate policy document which sets out how you will keep them safe.

What type of work will you fund a vehicle for?

Through our Community Vehicle Grants, as with all our funding, we want to support charities whose work addresses the impacts of poverty and/or trauma under one or more of these themes:

- 1. Financial wellbeing:** addressing the financial and material effects of poverty on people and communities. We are interested in work which:
 - helps people who are struggling with day-to-day costs
 - creates access to advice, support and advocacy around welfare, debt, income maximisation; housing and employment advice and improving access to quality childcare.
- 2. Emotional wellbeing and relationships:** ensuring people have emotional wellbeing, and confidence and strength in their relationships with others. We are interested in work which:
 - engages with families, supports parents/carers around child attachment and relationships, and their wider socio-economic and life circumstances
 - supports individuals to address issues around mental health and wellbeing, including addressing their own experiences of trauma/ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), and shame and stigma associated with poverty
 - reduces involvement in risk-taking behaviours (e.g. violence, problem drug use, self-harm, abusive relationships, criminal behaviour)
 - creates spaces for social interaction and connection to address isolation and loneliness

- builds community resilience to meet the challenges presented by poverty/trauma.

3. Educational and work pathways: equipping people for the future through learning and skills pathways. We are interested in work which:

- supports educational engagement and attainment (including engagement of parents and wider family members)
- supports people with the transition through education and training into work
- supports people with the skills they need to gain and retain employment.

Across all three of these themes, we can contribute to the costs of a vehicle used to support work that:

- meets people's **immediate needs** around poverty or trauma
- provides **earlier help** which aims to prevent or reduce the likelihood of experiencing negative outcomes relating to poverty and/or trauma
- tests **new approaches** or does **more of what works**
- is **universal** (aimed at a wide group of people or an entire community) or **targeted** (focusing on a specific beneficiary group, e.g. young people), as long as it shows how it will meet the needs of people (at risk of) experiencing poverty or trauma.

Groups of people affected by poverty and trauma:

We would like to fund vehicles to support work aimed at these specific groups of people who we know are more likely to experience poverty or trauma, although we will also consider work not specifically aimed at these groups.

- Women
- People with a disability
- People from BAME backgrounds
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- People experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage
- People living in certain geographical locations (particularly remote and rural ones)
- Older people
- Certain family groups (larger families, single parents, people with care experience etc.)
- Young people under 25.

Examples of funding requests we would consider:

We will only consider funding requests where it is clear how the vehicle will support your work in addressing poverty and/or trauma. Examples of the type of request we might consider include:

- A new or used minibus for a community transport service operating in a rural or remote area in which there is a lack of affordable or accessible transport.
- A specially adapted wheelchair accessible minibus for a community transport service aimed at those who face barriers to accessing services in their communities through ill health, old age or financial pressures, to help them to access the services and support they need.
- A foodbank requiring a vehicle for the collection and distribution of goods for a food parcel service and/or outreach.

How much can I apply for?

Funding of between £1,000 and £10,000 for the purchase of a new or used vehicle, or the upgrade of an existing one – for example adapting a minibus to ensure it is wheelchair accessible.

The amount of funding will depend on the cost of the vehicle or upgrade/adaptation and will take into account how well the work fits with our funding themes. We assess each application on its own merits, but we have in place a sliding scale for funding which we use as a starting point for calculating levels of awards.

Costs of up to and including £10,000 → £1,000 grant
Costs of over £10,000 to £20,000 → £5,000 grant
Costs of over £20,000 to £40,000 → £7,500 grant
Costs of over £40,000 → £10,000 grant

- You can only hold one Community Vehicle Grant at any time and each covers a 12-month period.
- If your organisation also needs revenue funding, you can apply separately for one of our revenue grants in addition to funding for a community vehicle. [Find out more on our website.](#)

What will not be considered for funding?

- Applications for funding a vehicle if the work of your organisation does not address poverty or trauma through one or more of our three themes outlined above
- Applications for funding towards the revenue costs of community transport schemes, for example salary costs, volunteer drivers' expenses, fuel costs or insurance/licenses
- Routine repair work for existing vehicles.
- Work which takes place outside Scotland
- Vehicles to support projects and activities which incorporate the promotion of political or religious beliefs
- Any retrospective costs already incurred by the applicant organisation
- Any costs not incurred directly by the applicant organisation

What do you look for in an application?

We consider a number of key criteria when assessing applications. As well as meeting the basic requirements and fit with our themes, as outlined above, we want organisations who apply for a Community Vehicle Grant to demonstrate how they:

1. **Focus on poverty and trauma:** recognise the challenges people in their community are facing in their lives related to poverty and trauma, as well as how their organisation's work will respond to this and support them.
2. **Focus on community:** involve their community in the organisation, for example on the Board or through volunteering; and that they listen to their community and respond to their needs. By community, we mean either a geographic community or a community of interest.
3. **Plan to use the vehicle regularly:** either themselves or through shared use with other local organisations.

Other criteria we consider include:

- The organisation's financial position, including its sustainability and whether it has an immediate need for our funds
- How well the organisation is governed and, where appropriate, the safeguarding policies and arrangements it has in place.

You'll find more information about what we look for in an application and [what's important to us on our website](#)

How do I apply?

We consider Community Vehicle Grant applications as part of a rolling programme of funding. You can apply at any time, bearing in mind our timescale for decisions, detailed below. You can download a copy of our application questions and help text [here](#).

Please complete the [online application form](#).

- Please provide a copy of your most recent independently examined or audited annual accounts
- **You don't need to provide quotes or estimates** for the vehicle when you apply. However, if we award you funding, we'll want to see evidence of the purchase or work to be undertaken before we release the funding.

What happens next?

1. **We'll email you to confirm** we've got your application and when you can expect to receive a decision.
2. **We'll aim to tell you the outcome of your application within 8-10 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.
3. **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. We'll normally contact the person you've listed as the 'application contact' in the first instance, so it's helpful if this person is available during the assessment period. Please let us know if there are any changes to the contact details provided.
4. **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.

If we award you funding:

1. **If you have been awarded funding, we'll email you to let you know.** Before we can pay your funds, we'll ask you to provide:
 - A copy of a recent bank statement for your organisation's account, from within the past three months

- A copy of a quote or purchase order for the vehicle
- Evidence that you have enough funds in place to go ahead with the purchase.

2. We'll do our best to **pay the funds** to your organisation's bank account within two weeks.
3. **If we have awarded you less than £5,000, you don't need to send us a report** at the end of your grant year. However, we would love to hear from you if there's anything you do want to share with us. You can send us pictures, videos, quotes or anything else to funding@therobertsontrust.org.uk
4. **If we have awarded you £5,000 or more**, we'll ask that you send us a brief End of Grant Report telling us how the vehicle has helped support your work in addressing poverty/trauma.
5. **Community Vehicle Grants cover a 12-month period**. If you wish to reapply for further Community Vehicle funding once your current grant ends, please call us first to discuss.

If we don't award you funding:

1. **We'll send you an email in which we'll try our best to explain why we've not awarded you funding**. We will also let you know in our email how soon you can re-apply. If the reason we haven't awarded you funding is something we think you can address, you may be able to re-apply once you have been able to do so. We'll explain this in the email.
2. **If you would like to have a chat** with us about our decision and whether – or how soon – you can reapply, you can email us on funding@therobertsontrust.org.uk and your Funding Officer will get back to you within five working days.

Feel free to get in touch

If you have any questions about applying for a Community Vehicle Grant, please contact us on 0141 353 4321 or funding@therobertsontrust.org.uk

We've done our best to make sure the above guidance is clear. However, if you have any feedback on this, we'd welcome the chance to talk to you about it.