

Funding guidelines for community grants

Walton Charity awards community grants to local charities, schools and social enterprises who are tackling poverty and inequality in Elmbridge.

Our key themes include:

- Alleviating **financial poverty**
- Tackling the root causes of **child poverty**
- Supporting **health and wellbeing** – particularly mental health
- Promoting access to affordable **housing**
- Improving **educational attainment** for disadvantaged learners

A focus on poverty

Our focus is tackling poverty and inequality in our local area. We do not normally award grants where poverty alleviation is not part of the organisation's core mission. This includes areas such as: general support for older people, disability, and hospice or hospital care. While we recognise that these groups may be disadvantaged in some way, they are not, as a general group, affected by financial poverty.

Should organisations in this field develop specific projects to support people on low incomes, they would be eligible for funding. We are open to applications from disability organisations working with children, providing they can show they work with those on low incomes.

Improving the life chances of children and young people in Elmbridge

We believe all children deserve a childhood free from the worries and pressures of poverty, and a fair chance to reach their full potential. A key objective for Walton Charity over the coming years will be finding ways to support children and families living in poverty in Elmbridge – the ninth most unequal borough in the country.

We are concerned that, in an affluent area like Elmbridge, child poverty affects almost a third of families in some parts of the borough once housing costs are considered. While we will continue to provide small grants to alleviate the symptoms of poverty in the short-term, we are particularly keen to use our funds to tackle the underlying reasons why children who grow up in poverty are more likely to remain in poverty as adults.

Walton Charity is often most effective when working in partnership with others, so if you have ideas about how we could work together, please get in touch.

General information about our grants

- Most of our grants are for one to three years.
- We only fund organisations with an annual income of less than £5m.
- We award small grants of up to £5,000 for project-based initiatives.
- We are unlikely to fund organisations which have unrestricted reserves of under three months and over 12 months.
- Applications over £10,000 will go to our Grants Committee, who meet 4-5 times a year.
- We are open to multi-year funding requests.
- We will consider a wide range of funding requests, including service delivery, capacity development, core costs, mergers or collaborations, and policy development, when linked to the focus areas mentioned above.
- We are particularly interested in funding initiatives which aim to have a sustainable or transformative impact on people's lives.

For more information on which organisations are eligible to apply, see criteria on page 4.

Our current funding priorities

Core funding

We will accept requests for core funding from well-managed charities working in Elmbridge. Organisations will need to demonstrate they have a viable plan for long-term sustainability. Charities with very limited reserves (who would struggle to prove they can survive long-term) are unlikely to receive funding.

Education grants

Funding is available for local schools to help disadvantaged and underachieving children, including:

- Communication and language, behaviour and social and emotional learning initiatives.
- Catch-up, enrichment and early years interventions in local nurseries and schools with high numbers of disadvantaged children.
- Hardware to lend to students who do not have access to online learning at home.
- Note, grants should complement and not duplicate any statutory funding.

Mental health and wellbeing

We offer grants for schools and local organisations who provide mental health support for those on low incomes, with a particular focus on children, young people and families.

Supporting innovation

We want to support local organisations or schools who want to try out new ideas or embed new ways of working. We are particularly interested in how innovation can lead to more transformative change.

The innovations could involve reaching new audiences, developing new delivery models, or creating new areas of work. They could be completely new ideas or may involve bringing in a proven approach from elsewhere and testing it in a new context. The length and amount of funding available is flexible and can cover planning, delivery and evaluation.

Small grants

We award grants of up to £5,000 to support local charities, social enterprises and schools. Only organisations with an annual income of less than £200K can apply for a small grant. Note, once an organisation has received three years of funding, they would not be eligible to reapply for funding for the same project for at least a year (unless there are exceptional circumstances and at our trustees' discretion).

Small grant criteria:

- Applications must relate to one of our focus areas (see above).
- Grants can be used for the general running and/or overhead costs for a charity.
- We can fund capital grants (up to £1,000) if there is a clear link to our themes.
- The total amount requested must not exceed 50% of the total annual income of the charity.

We are keen to ensure there is diversity in both the causes we support and the type of organisations we fund. Applications for small grants are accepted at any time and we aim to respond quickly.

Funder plus

We are keen to support local organisations in other ways than just offering grant funding. This support could help with:

- Evaluation (both process and impact evaluations) to help organisations find out what works.
- Marketing – to improve awareness of and access to support and services.
- Capacity-building – helping organisations to become more effective and sustainable.
- Participation – to help organisations work better in partnership with the people they serve, eg co-designing projects.

Other grant requests

We will continue to consider grant requests outside these priority areas where there is potential for high impact in areas of need – particularly in tackling child poverty and improving access to affordable housing.

To enquire about applying for a community grant or to request an application form, please email grants@waltoncharity.org.uk

Organisational eligibility criteria

- We fund charities or charitable incorporated organisations (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission and operating in Elmbridge. You will need to provide your charity registration number as part of your application.
- We also fund schools operating in Elmbridge.
- We will fund Community Interest Companies limited by guarantee under certain circumstances, but only for project funding.
- Your annual income must be less than £5million in your last accounts published on the Charity Commission website.
- Your bank account must be in the name of the charity with unrelated signatories.
- Your Board should have at least three trustees in place who are not related to other Board members. No payments are made to trustees except for out-of-pocket expenses.
- Charity Commission records must include all trustees and the registered address is the same as on the application form.
- We will check that Charity Commission returns have been submitted on time (or any late returns are explained).
- You need to have an up-to-date safeguarding policy in place, which reflects current good practice.
- We will not fund the advancement of any religion or religious group, unless the application is to provide non-religious services to the local community.
- All organisations will be asked to submit:
 - Latest annual accounts if those on Charity Commission are more than 15 months out of date.
 - Current financial year's budget for core funding applications.
 - Governing documents (where relevant eg, smaller or unknown charities).
 - Safeguarding policy (if they work with children or vulnerable adults).
 - Equality and Diversity policy (if they have one).
 - Details of their financial controls policy.

Walton Charity will carry out due diligence checks on applicant organisations to determine the risk attached to funding the organisation. Organisations that pose a larger risk are not necessarily less likely to receive funding, but the risk level will be taken into consideration when deciding whether to award funding and what additional monitoring may be needed.

Applicants that do not pass due diligence will not be put forward for funding. Where anything is unclear, Walton Charity may contact applicants to obtain more information.