

Funding Guidelines

Walton Charity awards grants to local charitable organisations, schools and social enterprises in the following areas:

- Tackling the root causes of **child poverty**
- Alleviating **financial poverty**
- Promoting personal **health and wellbeing** – particularly mental health
- Addressing **isolation and loneliness** for those on low incomes
- Facilitating access to affordable **housing**
- Improving **educational attainment** for disadvantaged learners

Improving the life chances of children and young people in Elmbridge

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. We believe all children deserve a childhood free from the worries and pressures of poverty, and a fair chance to reach their full potential.

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 award small grants of up to £5,000 for project-based initiatives.
- We are open to multi-year funding requests for higher amounts.
- We are open to a wide range of funding requests, including service delivery, capacity development, core costs, mergers or collaborations, and policy development, when linked to the priority areas mentioned above.
- We are particularly interested in funding initiatives which aim to have a sustainable or transformative impact on people's lives.

Current priorities

Education grants

- Funding for local schools to help disadvantaged children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure they are ready to learn. This could include initiatives in areas such as communication and language, behaviour, and social and emotional learning.
- Funding the establishment of catch-up and early years interventions in local nurseries and schools with high numbers of disadvantaged children.
- Funding for local schools to purchase hardware to lend to students who do not have access to online learning at home.

Grants should complement and not duplicate any statutory funding.

Mental health and wellbeing

- Grants for schools and other local organisations providing mental health support to those most affected by COVID-19, with a particular focus on children, young people and their families.
- Length and amount of funding available is flexible.

Supporting innovation

- We want to support local organisations or schools who want to innovate and 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.
- The innovation could be a completely new idea, or it may involve bringing in a proven approach from elsewhere and testing it in a new context.
- Length and amount of funding available is flexible and can cover planning, delivery and evaluation.

Bridge funding

- Up to £10,000 (£15,000 on an exceptional basis) for small- to medium-sized, well-managed charities, to support them with the short-term challenges of declining income and increasing service demand due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Funding will be for one or two years.
- Organisations will need to demonstrate they have a viable plan for long-term sustainability, and how funding from Walton Charity will help them bridge the gap.
- Charities with very limited pre-crisis reserves (who would struggle to prove they can survive this period) are unlikely to receive funding.
- Organisations are expected to be actively seeking or have sought government help, and to be pursuing other funding.
- Only open to organisations with an annual income of less than £3m.
- We will consider grants to help with the organisational costs associated with mergers and collaborations.
- We are particularly interested in receiving applications from organisations working with children and young people.
- Applications will go to our Grants Committee, which meets 4-5 times a year.

Small grants

- Up to £5,000 to support charities, social enterprises and schools.
- Only open to organisations with an annual income of less than £200K.
- Grants are for up to two years (three years on an exceptional basis).
- Once an organisation has received two years of funding, they would not be able to reapply for funding for the same project for at least a year (unless there are exceptional circumstances and at trustees' discretion).
- Must relate to tackling disadvantage in one of our six themes.
- Small grants can be used for general running and/or overhead costs of the charity.
- We will fund capital grants (up to £1,000) if there is a clear link to our objectives.
- The total amount of the grant requested must not exceed 50% of the total annual income of the charity.
- We are keen to ensure there is diversity in both causes supported and types of organisation assisted.

- Applications accepted at any time.

Other grant requests

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

If you would like to enquire about applying for a Community Grant or would like an application form, please contact:

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