



# **TOGETHER GRANTS**

## **GRANTS CRITERIA**

## **AND GUIDANCE 2016**

# CHURCH URBAN FUND

## Changing Lives and Communities Together

Church Urban Fund is passionate about bringing God's love, hope and justice to communities across England, empowering individuals and communities to transform lives.

We believe in the capacity of communities to bring about change. Each member of each community across the country has skills, abilities, and capacity to offer and through allowing these assets to thrive we are able to transform both lives and communities together.

We also believe the local church is uniquely placed to make this happen. Found in every part of the country, as a relational community responding to the gospel message to serve their communities, the church is well positioned to act as an agent for deep social change.

That's why, as the Church of England's social action charity, we've set up our Together Network; to enhance the work of local churches, providing support so they can reach even further and transform lives and communities.

We have also supported local churches through grants, having provided more than £70 million in funding over our history, directing funding to where it is needed most and where it will make the biggest difference.

Added to this we undertake and release research, offering key insights into a broad range of issues as well as highlighting the best work being by Christians to transform lives. Our research is contributing to national and local debate about the way flourishing communities can be built sustainably.

We work at a national and local level, bringing churches and Christians together to transform both lives and communities.

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## Grants Criteria and Guidance, 2016 Version

This version of the Grants Criteria and Guidance supersedes all previous guidance issued by Church Urban Fund. It has been developed as a resource and will be reviewed from time to time as required by Church Urban Fund. The latest version of the Grants Criteria and Guidance will always be available for download from Church Urban Fund website. For additional information, please contact us using the details below.

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# TOGETHER GRANTS

The Together Grants programme provides small grants of up to £5,000 for faith based organisations to engage in social action, by supporting them to initiate or develop community work.

## CRITERIA

The programme has the following criteria:

- **Tackling poverty:** The activity must be directly tackling deprivation in the long term, *addressing the underlying issues* keeping people in poverty. We favour activities that are working directly with people in need.
- **Faith basis:** The lead applicant should have a faith basis.
- **Working in partnership:** Applicants need to partner with at least one other *local* organisation. These do not need to be a faith based or even charitable organisation.
- **Local community focus:** The activity needs to be based in the local community and to have local community involvement in identifying needs, initiating responses and running the project.

In addition, a grant must be for:

- **New or developed work:** We won't support repeat or ongoing activities.
- **Open to all:** The activity must be open to all regardless of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender, age or sexual orientation, except where there is an expressly identifiable need.
- **Charitable purposes:** The lead applicant must have charitable purposes (as defined by the Charity Commission).
- **Small initiatives:** We like to fund small projects and we want to know that our funding will mean the project is likely to go ahead, so the total cost of the project needs to be £15,000 or less.
- **Imminent activities:** Funding should be claimed or part-claimed within 6 months, and ideally fully spent within 12 months of approval.

## WEB OF POVERTY

Our grant making is heavily influenced by our understanding of poverty, summarised by our 'Web of Poverty' paper. It understands poverty as a web of resources, relationships and identity with our work particularly targeted where these factors overlap. We recommend you read this paper before writing your application, it can be found here:

<https://www.cuf.org.uk/web-of-poverty>

## FAQ

### Tackling poverty

We look to support work that offers more than just short-term emergency relief, instead acting to tackle the long term and underlying causes of poverty. While we recognise the importance of such emergency relief work, our aim is to see people move out of poverty, empowering them to transform their lives.

### Partnerships

Linked to the vision of our Together Network, we want to see local organisations working together to tackle poverty. A partnership can range from something as simple as providing volunteers through to being equal members in development and delivery. Partnerships deepen the impact of an initiative, avoiding duplication, breaking down barriers and maximising resources.

Partnerships must be between separate local organisations active in the area. Where an organisation is part of the ministry of a local church (for example a church run youth group) we would want to see a partnership beyond these two groups, connecting more broadly in the community.

### Feasibility Studies

Funding is available for feasibility studies for projects; however as we do not support construction or renovation work we also do not offer funding for studies into such work.

#### Youth and Children's work

Applications for youth and children's work must be for more than just social activities, evidencing how the initiative works to alleviate poverty.

#### The Elderly and Isolation

Isolation, particularly amongst the elderly, is a pressing need. However, as with youth and children's work, we are keen to support work that offers more than just social activities. For this reason applications for such work must evidence how the initiative works to alleviate poverty.

#### Physical and Mental Health

We can consider applications for Physical and Mental Health work if it moves beyond simply therapeutic initiatives, evidencing how it will alleviate poverty.

## PRIORITIES

In addition to our criteria, we also assess applications by a number of priorities. These are:

- Activity linked to or supported by a member organisation of the Together Network.
- Activity identified by dioceses as being key to the reduction of deprivation in their area.
- Activity that involves and encourages volunteering.
- Activity that raises capacity and encourages learning, which leads people onto new things.

## WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND

There are also a number of things that we don't fund. These are:

- Organisations outside England.
- Activities not directly tackling *specific, long term* issues of poverty, including social welfare work which does not address underlying causes of poverty.
- Activities without faith links.
- Individuals (including clergy stipends or self-supporting clergy).
- Existing salary costs. We can fund increased hours to expand existing or starting new work.
- Core costs (Ongoing revenue costs).
- Repeating activities (e.g. annual summer camp or regular training sessions).
- Organisations with an annual income of over £150,000, or with significant reserves (operational reserves should not normally exceed six months of annual running costs).
- Retrospective funding (work that has already been completed or started), deficits or loans.
- Campaigning and fundraising activity.
- Revenue and capital funding for national, public or private sector organisations.
- Activities open only to church members, or evangelistic activity which is not part of a response to poverty.
- Renovations and building work, including general repairs and refurbishment, church maintenance or Disability Discrimination Act compliance.
- General appeals or applications not endorsed by a Diocesan Link Officer.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If you wish to apply for funding, please follow the following procedure:

- Ensure you have read through this criteria and guidance in detail to establish your eligibility, as well as the Grant Management Process and FAQs documents here: <http://www.cuf.org.uk/together-grants>
- Contact your local Diocesan Link Officer. Link Officers are a national network based with Church of England dioceses. They can help provide guidance and support for your application. Discuss your proposal, and if appropriate you will be offered an application form. Contact details can be found here: <http://cuf.link/2556otY>
- Complete your application form and return this (with a budget breakdown and your latest accounts) to your Link Officer.
- Your application will be reviewed locally before being forwarded to Church Urban Fund for final assessment. Church Urban Fund aims to assess your application and communicate a decision within one month of receiving completed proposals to our central offices.

## GRANT CONDITIONS

If you are awarded a grant we will outline several conditions that you must agree to in order to receive payment; this is a legally binding agreement. This will include using your grant only for the purposes laid out in your application. Additionally we include details about transferring funds, our grant evaluation process and publicity. Please be aware that additional conditions may be attached as required. These will always be stated at the time a funding offer is made. For more information, please see the Grant Management and FAQs documents available here: <http://www.cuf.org.uk/together-grants>