

Hope Beyond: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the overall aim of the Hope Beyond programme?

A: Our Hope Beyond grants programme aims to enable churches and Christian charities to meet changing needs within their communities, helping them and the communities they support to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Q: Who can apply for a Hope Beyond grant?

A: Churches, cathedrals and Christian denominational bodies, and Christian charities in the UK and the Republic of Ireland are eligible to apply. Churches will normally need to be part of a denomination that is a member of Churches Together in England or the equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Ireland, or belong to a local ecumenical 'churches together' group. Unfortunately schools and other educational establishments are not eligible to apply, but can apply for grants for other purposes through our general grants programme. Further details are available [here](#)

Q: What kinds of projects are Hope Beyond grants available for?

A: Our Hope Beyond funding will look to address these three key themes:

- Projects responding to the issues of loneliness and isolation exacerbated by the Coronavirus pandemic
- Projects focused on growing community resilience and promoting mental and emotional health and wellbeing, including the provision of mental health and wellbeing support groups and 1:1 counselling for people of all ages (including clergy).
- Projects focused on growing technological capability and resilience, particularly increasing digital capacity and provision, and supporting those without online access to get online through training and support.

When applying, you will need to demonstrate how your project is seeking to directly respond to increasing and/or new need as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic

Q: What kinds of project costs are Hope Beyond grants available for?

A: Hope Beyond grants are available to help fund:

- Capital costs, such as adaptation of buildings and the purchase of equipment, but only in cases where this makes new and/or enhanced support possible as a direct response to the pandemic
- Project-related salaries (i.e. employing new staff and/or extending contracted hours of existing staff in relation to new work) and some other revenue costs (to the end of 2021), such as training of staff and/or volunteers, hire of buildings and/or equipment, and reasonable costs of promotion and marketing of new activities

All costs must be those that are necessary to enable new and/or enhanced support and activities to meet changing needs, and you will need to demonstrate how your project will continue to be sustainable in the longer term.

The following costs cannot be funded under this programme and should be excluded from (or at least distinctly separate in) your project budget:

- General 'business as usual' running costs, including broadband and utilities
- Cleaning costs
- PPE costs
- Tablets and phones to be given or loaned to users of new services being provided
- Mobile phones for staff and volunteers
- Costs of major overhaul and upgrade of AV systems

Q: What size of grants are available?

A: Grants of up to £50,000 are available, and if your application is successful, the amount you receive will depend upon the eligible costs of your project and (where applicable) the level of need in your community (which we will assess based on applicable deprivation indices), ranging from 10% of project cost through to 80%.

Q: Can we apply for a specific grant amount?

A: No. We ask you to provide us with the cost of your project and a high-level budget. Guidance on how to provide a high-level budget is available [here](#). If your application is successful, a grant will be awarded based on the eligible costs of your project and (where applicable) the level of need in your community (which we will assess based on applicable deprivation indices), ranging from 10% of project cost through to 80%.

Q: Do we need to have raised any funds towards the cost of our project before applying?

A: No. You can apply regardless of what stage your other fundraising efforts are at. However, it will be helpful if you can show that you have at least some funds in place, and our trustees will expect to see a realistic funding plan in place to meet the costs of your project, and where possible, to see a contribution towards project costs from your existing resources.

Q: We've recently had a grant from Allchurches Trust under a different programme. Can we still apply?

A: Yes, you can apply for funding under the Hope Beyond programme even if you have received a grant from Allchurches Trust within the last two years, as long as the Hope Beyond application is for a different project.

Q: Is there a deadline for applications?

A: Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and there is no fixed deadline while funds for the programme are still available.

Q: How soon can we expect to know the outcome of our application?

A: We normally aim to respond to applications within 3 months

Q: How can we apply for a grant?

A: All applications must be submitted via our online application form. Just visit www.allchurches.co.uk/hopebeyond and click on 'Apply now'. You don't have to complete your application in one session as you can save your progress and return to the application when you are ready.

Q: Is it possible to see the application form questions before starting the process?

A: Yes. The first page of the application form process provides a link that will enable you to read through the questions before you start your application.

Q: How can we get some guidance on planning our project?

A: Guidance and tools for project planning, reporting and impact evaluation tools, as well as advice on applying for funding, publicising your project and much more are available on our [advice and resources hub](#).

Q: If we are successful, will you expect us to promote news of our grant in any way?

A: Yes. As a condition of receiving a grant, we will ask you to acknowledge the grant on your website, in your Annual Report and in any publicity about the project for which the grant was awarded. We'll also send you publicity resources, and a certificate to display.

Q: What are your reporting requirements if we are successful in our application?

A: Successful applicants will be asked to complete an online report form one year after the award of their grant, reporting on the extent to which the outcomes set out in their original application have been achieved.

Q: Where can we get further help and advice if our question hasn't been covered?

A: Please e-mail us at atl@allchurches.co.uk and we will respond as soon as possible. You may also like to read [this article](#), which addresses some other frequently asked questions about applying for grants, though please note this is written with our general application form in mind.