



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) specific to Growing Lives thematic programme

Who can apply under the Growing Lives thematic programme?

The new Growing Lives thematic programme is open to applications from churches (including cathedrals), registered charities and other exempt organisations under the Charities Act. Please note that schools are not able to apply for funding under the Growing Lives programme (although schools with Christian links are able to apply for Allchurches Trust's other open grants programmes; see our [what we fund webpage](#) for more information). If a church or Christian organisation/charity is running a project in a school or in conjunction with a school, this could be eligible for funding under the Growing Lives programme. However, the applicant must be the church or Christian organisation.

In addition to meeting the Trust's core criteria for the award of a grant, applicants must demonstrate when they apply how their project will enable the church or organisation better to serve the needs of children and young people and how they intend to achieve their strategic objectives. Our grants normally support projects that have a Christian foundation or links.

Do we have to be a registered charity to apply?

We are only able to support UK registered charities unless the organisation applying has 'exempt' status i.e. churches. If your organisation is not one of these, then unfortunately you are not eligible to apply to us. If you are a youth worker applying for funding under the Growing Lives programme, you will need to apply on behalf of the church or Christian organisation you are attached to, with their express knowledge and consent.

We're based in the UK but carry out some projects overseas; can we apply for funding for them?

No, we can only fund projects within the UK.

What sort of projects will you fund under the Growing Lives thematic programme?

For this programme, we are looking to support churches or Christian organisations who can see the opportunities open to them for working with children and young people in their community, helping them to enjoy life, reach their potential, grow in faith and participate in their community. Grants will be available to fund changes to buildings and for new equipment, but in line with our other open grants programmes, they will not generally support salaries or running costs, one-off events or scholarships. Here are some examples of the type of projects that the new Growing Lives programme could fund:

- Adaptations to buildings to enable or increase their use and enjoyment by children and young people (such as carpeting for crèche areas or re-decoration and adaptation of a space/room to become a recreational area, soft play zone, café, after school club or counselling/pastoral care space for young people)
- Purchase of equipment for use in activities with children and young people (such as sports equipment, audio-visual equipment, computers, or toys and books)
- Installation of child-safety or child-friendly features (such as the adaptation of entrances or toilets to enhance child safety and accessibility or to facilitate their use by children with a disability)
- Revenue expenditure essential to support the launch of new initiatives aimed at serving children and young people, such as re-decorating of premises.

We particularly like to support organisations working in some of the most disadvantaged areas, right at the grass-roots, unafraid to tackle difficult social issues and working in partnership with other charities and churches to produce something that is innovative, impactful and greater than the sum of its parts.

We like to fund projects that demonstrate a focus on the impact on people and communities; projects that help meet a real need in their local area and are relevant to local people. Applicants should ensure they include clear (and, where possible, measurable) outcomes for their projects and demonstrate how they will ensure sustainability after our funding has been used. It's also important to show how additional funding support will be sought to enable the project to be completed.

What form do we need to apply on?

Please use our standard online application form and, at question B1, choose the drop down option that indicates you are applying under the Growing Lives programme.

What size of grants will you give under the Growing Lives programme?

Grants will be up to £25,000 (for projects with a total cost of £100,000 or more). The level of grant awarded will take into account the cost of your own project and the level of relative disadvantage in the community concerned. It will cover from 10% to 80% of project cost and will normally not be less than £500. We will also take into account the amount raised towards a project, along with the project's objectives and scope.

Do you require some funding to have been raised?

Yes, although the level of the funding we require to be in place or committed will vary depending on project cost and the level of disadvantage in your area. There is a requirement that 30% of the funding must be in place for projects costing over £100,000. We rarely fund 100% of a project as we like to see a community's commitment to a project through local fundraising and it is helpful if you can demonstrate that other funders may be involved and supportive. We can discuss this with you at the time you make your application.

Do you give more money to disadvantaged communities?

At the heart of our grant-giving is helping those most in need. In order to ensure money goes to those areas where people are most in need, grants awarded under the Growing Lives programme will include a potential uplift depending on the level of disadvantage in the community.

How long does the process take?

When you apply online, you will receive an immediate email acknowledgement to let you know that we have received your application. It can take between three and six months for an application to be processed, considered by the Trustees and for the decision to be communicated to you, although that timeframe is sometimes less. There is currently no deadline for applications, although funding for the programme is finite and will be kept under review.

The Trustees do not normally make retrospective grants.

When will applications be considered for the Growing Lives programme?

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis by the Trust. It is likely that two tranches of applications will be considered and awarded in 2019; in July and November.

Who decides how much money a project receives?

The Trustees consider each application on its own merits, based on your application form and where appropriate, a report from one of our Grants Officers. If the application meets the criteria for the Growing Lives programme, a grant will be considered based on the overall cost of the project, the amount raised to date and other factors.

Our charity has sub-branches, can we apply for projects in more than one?

If your charity is running multiple projects in clearly different geographic locations, benefiting different communities, it may be possible for you to submit a separate application for each project, at the discretion of our Trustees. Please contact us before applying to discuss your circumstances so that we can give advice.

Our project has already finished but we still have a major funding gap – can we still apply?

If you are raising funds for a major capital project and the work has already started, it may be possible to apply. If, however, you are running a programme of activity that has already been completed, the Trust will be unable to support this. If in doubt, please contact us.

How long before we can make another application?

If you have received a grant from the Growing Lives programme, you cannot apply for a further grant under this programme. However, our other grants programmes would be open to you, so long as you meet the criteria, and our normal two-year waiting rule will not apply.

If we have had a grant from you within the past two years, can we still apply for a grant through the Growing Lives programme?

Yes, so long as it is for a different project, the application is specifically for a grant under the Growing Lives programme and you meet the criteria. Please note that if a previous application/grant has been made for a larger project, the trustees may be willing to consider a separate Growing Lives application for a youth/children's project that relates to it, although the objectives specific to that project would need to be clearly set out and the work separately costed.

My application was rejected – why?

The Trustees take a range of considerations into account, including such factors as to whether the application meets the charitable objects of the Trust, previous grants awarded to you, costs, available resources, the sustainability of the project, and the viability of the fundraising plan. These factors are examples and this is not an exhaustive list. While the Trustees aim to support as many good projects and organisations as possible, it is unfortunately not possible to provide funding to all. They may simply have declined to make a grant because of the volume of applications received.

Our previous application was rejected, so can we apply again?

Yes, the Trustees will consider each application on its merits. It might be helpful for you to look at our website, where you will find examples of projects we have supported.

Where does the Trust's money come from?

The Trust is the charitable owner of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group - a financial services company specialising in insuring churches, charities, schools and heritage buildings, as well as providing

advisory, insurance broking and investment services. Ecclesiastical passes all available profits to the Trust.

The fact that an applicant may have an insurance agreement with Ecclesiastical or any of its subsidiaries is not known to the Trustees when they make their decisions on grants.

If we are successful in receiving a grant, do you expect an acknowledgment or publicity?

Our application form states: "In the event of receiving a grant...Allchurches Trust may wish to disclose the recipient of the grant and the nature of the application."

The Trustees are obliged to publish details of the grants that they have awarded in the Annual Report and Accounts. In addition, the Trust seeks to publicise its grant making activities, e.g. on the website and through other publicity material. This information is useful, for example, for other applicants considering approaching the Trust for support.

We send a receipt for you to sign, acknowledging that you have received a grant, which must be returned to us. We also send a grant certificate to be displayed within the project building/area.

Your grant should, where possible, be publicised, e.g. on social media, in physical and digital literature, on noticeboards and newsletters, in the media, on websites or on a plaque/donor recognition board. Appropriate artwork can be supplied to help you with this.

There are also a range of resources to support beneficiaries with publicity on our [website](#), including press release templates, social media guidance and advice on who to tell and how.