



The Prince's Countryside Fund Grant giving programme Eligibility and guidance document (January 2019)

Introduction

The Prince's Countryside Fund will provide funding towards projects affecting areas of greatest need in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that clearly contribute towards one or more of The Prince's Countryside Fund's objectives:

- To sustain rural communities and drive economic vibrancy.
- To improve the prospects of viability for family farm businesses.
- To support aid delivery in emergency and building resilience.

We want our funding to have a long-term positive impact on rural communities, helping those that live and work there to sustain the countryside, by tackling key rural issues.

1. Key areas the Fund seeks to address

To be eligible for a grant you will need to demonstrate that your project is focusing on at least one of these areas:

Sustaining Rural Communities

- Projects that deliver assets and services that keep isolated communities together and develop a more sustainable rural economy.
- Developing sustainable rural community assets, businesses and services.
- Providing advice and new skills and business training that benefit the local economy.

Improving the prospects of viability for farm and rural businesses:

- Projects that will focus on developing stronger, more sustainable farm businesses and other rural enterprises with the aim of halting the decline of the rural economy.
- Encouraging local food production and short supply chains and knowledge transfer e.g. farmer networks.
- Providing new skills and training for rural, and agricultural benefit.

Supporting Aid Delivery in Emergency and Building Resilience:

- Projects that support farm businesses, rural businesses and communities to plan for and recover from natural disasters such as flooding or animal disease and build resilience.

2. Criteria for Application

Type of applicant

Applications are accepted from (please note this list is not exhaustive):

- Charities.
- Community Benefit Society.
- Community Interest Companies.
- Companies limited by guarantee.
- Not for profit organisations.

- Social enterprises.
- Unincorporated associations.

NB: These must be ratified by time of application.

The Prince's Countryside Fund will not accept applications from individuals, private businesses, or the following organisations:

- Statutory bodies, such as local authorities, NHS bodies, or work where there is statutory responsibility to provide funding.
- Religious bodies where the funding will be for religious purposes.
- Political organisations where the funding will be used for political purposes.

Type of activity

Applications for core costs such as staffing, overheads, training and equipment will be considered.

Please see our [case studies](#) for examples of projects we have previously funded, these are not prescriptive and we welcome a wide range of applications.

We cannot fund the following types of projects:

- Applications for capital funding for the purchase of buildings or land or for major external renovation.
- Applications for planning permission, surveys or feasibility studies.
- Applications for projects where planning permission has not been granted at the time of applying.
- Care Farms.
- Projects where the work has begun and money has been spent in anticipation of receiving funding.
- Projects where the funding would displace existing government funding streams, such as agri-environment schemes.
- Projects which do not demonstrate sufficient public benefit and in which private benefit is more than incidental.

3. Funding

Organisations can apply for a maximum of £50,000, or £25,000 if you are a shop, pub, or village hall project (inclusive of VAT) for a maximum period of three years.

The Prince's Countryside Fund's Trustees on occasion may only offer part funding (when this is the case revised outputs will be agreed if applicable).

- The Fund can pay for a portion or all the costs of a project
- The Fund will consider applications for match funding.
- The Fund will not support projects wholly dependent on its funding for over three years.

After your initial payment, funding will be made in six monthly instalments following the receipt of a written report detailing the satisfactory completion of the outcomes to date. (See section on reporting later in the document) Please note that the outcomes and reporting structure will be agreed between both parties prior to start of the funding.

4. Decision making process

All applications must be completed using our online application form. No supplementary information will be accepted.

Wednesday 9 th January 2019 (12pm)	Open for Grant Applications
Thursday 21 st February 2019 (12pm)	Close for Grant Applications
March 2019	Applications reviewed by Trustees
Week commencing 1 st April 2019	Applicants informed of outcome
April 2019	Funding commences for successful applicants

Funding will not be provided if doing so would damage the name or reputation of the Fund or if the Trustees have other good grounds for refusing funding.

Funding decisions are final. Unfortunately, due to the sheer volume of applications and the extremely small administrative team individual feedback cannot be provided.

Funding will be conditional upon the recipient agreeing to the Fund's grant conditions.

5. Reporting

If successful in your funding application, grant beneficiaries will be required to provide details of progress against previously agreed set targets every six months. These targets must be met before additional tranches of funding will be released. This will enable The Prince's Countryside Fund to monitor how effectively grant funding is being used. [Please click here to view an example report template.](#)

Grant beneficiaries will also be required to share the results and lessons learned from their work with others, so that successful projects may be replicated elsewhere. These results will also be communicated by The Prince's Countryside Fund through case studies, to demonstrate the impact that the charitable funding has had and to maximise its effectiveness.

All Grant beneficiaries will be required to help communicate and promote The Prince's Countryside Fund's support.

Conclusion

If you would like to discuss your project with a member of The Prince's Countryside Fund team, please contact Sophie Middleton on Sophie.Middleton@bitc.org.uk / 0207 566 6615.