



Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action

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Grant Making Trusts

What Makes a Grant-Making Trust?

Basic definition: Grant-making trusts are charities which exist to give money to other charities.

They also come under the heading of 'Charitable trusts and foundations'. Most trusts have well-publicised and open application procedures with their own application form etc.

The Diversity of Trusts...

Trusts will always have particular interests and will state in their guidelines what they are. For example, some trusts may have a particular interest in children and young people; others in general welfare or education. They will also outline whether they fund long term project costs or prefer to give small one off grants for equipment or individuals.

'Some trusts support a wide range of activities, while others specialise in providing funding for a particular type of work. Part of the knack of tailoring an application lies in identifying an area of work that a trust will support and highlighting that in your application.'

Taken from 'The Complete Fundraising Handbook', 4th Edition, Nina Botting & Michael Norton

How a Trust is Run – A Breakdown

A trust will have the following structure. How each trust operates will depend on who the donor is and the size of the trust.

- **The DONOR or FOUNDER** (who provides the money)
- **A CONSTITUTION or TRUST DEED** (how the funds are to be managed and distributed)
- **THE TRUSTEES** (who ensure that the funds are properly invested and managed)
- **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**
- **THE APPLICANT**

What Kind of Grants do Trusts Give?

Most trusts will make cash donations. These will vary in size depending on the annual income of the trust.

What Trusts are Looking For

Here are a few bullet points of what trusts will be looking for when receiving an application.

- Can you define the project clearly?
- How will you make a difference?
- Can you show what difference will be made?
- What skills will be needed for the project? Can you demonstrate that you have them? If not, how will you get them?

These questions will have been addressed at the planning stage of your project but it serves as a good reminder to get an outside eye to read over your application to make sure that you have covered all important areas.

How to Find Out About Local Trusts...

- Word of mouth. Ask your management committee, leaders, parents or other local groups.
- Your local Council for Voluntary Services (that's us!) At OCVA we can provide advice on all aspects of funding and charity governance. You can also search for grant making trusts using funderfinder, a database containing details of thousands of trusts that give grants to organisations and their projects.
- Log onto www.oxnet.org.uk. Our website has a monthly updated funding newsletter and a bidding diary.

Published Information About Trusts.

The Directory of Social Change publishes '*Guides to the Major Trusts*' and '*Guide to Local Trusts*'. Both can be found at the OCVA resource centre along with Funderfinder, an extensive database that lists thousands of trusts and is linked to the Directory of Social Change CDROM Trust Guide.