

The Henry Smith Charity

founded in 1628

Christian Projects Funding Guidelines

Introduction

The Henry Smith Charity is one of the largest independent grant making trusts in the UK, distributing over £40m each year.

The majority of our funding is distributed through the Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities programmes but we do have a number of other grant programmes, including our Kindred, Holiday, Christian and County Grants. Guidelines outlining what we fund under each of these programmes and how to apply can be found in the [What we fund](#) section of our website.

These funding guidelines are for our **Christian Projects Grant programme only**; they outline the type of organisations and services we are looking to fund and aim to help you decide whether you are eligible to apply for a grant.

When our founder Henry Smith died in 1628 he left a detailed Will. It established our charity and expressed a range of charitable objectives. These included funds set aside for the 'relief and maintenance of Godly Preachers'. The Christian Projects Grants programme addresses this objective.

If you have any queries about the guidelines or are unsure whether or not your project fits within them, please call us on 020 7264 4970 and speak to a member of the Grants Team.

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1. Who can apply for a grant

Please read these Guidelines in full before completing your application.

Under our Christian Projects Grant programme, we accept applications from churches, small charities and not-for-profit organisations. We only support work that comes from churches within the Anglican Communion in the UK, or that is fully ecumenical. The Anglican Communion in the UK consists of the Church of England, the Church in Wales, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Ireland. If your organisation is not formally part of any of these churches you must demonstrate that your project has the full support of whichever church is geographically applicable.

We fund established organisations (by this we mean at least 18 months old and have published their first set of annual accounts) that have a track record. We are looking for applicants that have the necessary expertise and experience and are well placed to deliver the work for which funding is sought.

We prioritise smaller organisations and are unlikely to make a grant to organisations with an income of over £1 million.

Applications can be made for funding of up to five years in exceptional circumstances; please talk to us before applying for more than three years. The minimum grant you can ask for is £10,000 per annum. There is no maximum but, due to restrictions on the budget, grants of more than a total of £70,000 are unlikely to be awarded.

There are no deadlines and applications can be submitted at any time during the year provided that:

- you do not have an active grant from us, unless you are in the last 6 months of your current grant and wish to apply for continuation funding;
- we are not already assessing an application from your organisation to one of our other programmes;
- all reporting requirements on previous grants have been met, and
- if you applied previously and were unsuccessful, that more than 12 months has passed since you received your declination letter.

Applications for this programme are submitted online using our application form.

Trustees meet three times a year to consider grant applications so it may take **up to five months** to hear the outcome of your application.

If your organisation applies and is unsuccessful you must wait at least 12 months from the date on the notification letter we send you before making another application.

2. What you can apply for

The Christian Projects Grant programme supports projects that provide a means for Anglican Clergy to be supported or take preventative measures to ensure they remain healthy and effective in their ministry.

Grants from this programme are made to churches or charities, not to individual members of the clergy.

Examples of the type of project that is likely to fit, are:

- A programme of peer support, for a group of local clergy
- Retreat houses providing restorative time for clergy
- One-to-one mentoring
- Online or in person pastoral care

3. What we do not fund

It is important to read this page carefully before applying to us.

We do not make grants to applicant organisations which have:

- Reserves (net current assets plus investments) covering more than 12 months' expenditure
- An annual income above £1 million (in exceptional circumstances we are willing to consider applications from organisations with an income over £1 million subject to discussion with a member of staff)
- Applied to us unsuccessfully within the previous 12 months
- Another application under consideration in any of our grant programmes
- An active grant from us under any of our grant programmes

We will not support:

- Applications for less than £10,000 per annum
- Proposals for grants of more than 50% of the annual running costs of an organisation
- Work that will take place overseas
- Grants to individuals, or to other causes, that will benefit only one person, including student grants or bursaries
- Capital grants of any sort.
- Work whose sole focus is heritage or conservation
- Sabbaticals or holidays

4. Application process

Applications for the Christian Projects Grant programme must be submitted via our online application process.

To submit your application, please follow the steps below.

1. Read our guidelines for the Christian Projects Grant programme carefully to make sure you are eligible to apply

- We welcome telephone calls to check that your proposed applications is likely to be a good fit for the programme.
- Once you are happy that your organisation and the project you are seeking funding for is eligible, follow the 'Make and Application' link on the 'How to Apply' page of our website.

2. Create an account so you can apply

- When you click on the 'Make an Application' link to begin your application, you will be asked to set up a new account or sign in to your existing account.
- If you have any problems, please visit the Frequent Questions section of our website.

3. Completing your application

- Please provide all relevant information in your application. You must answer all the questions and provide the attachments requested.
- To prevent formatting problems, avoid using bullet points and always copy and paste text into Notepad (Windows) or TextEdit (Mac) before adding to the application form.
- For your convenience, you can access a sample version of the application form on our website. Please note that this is for guidance only, and you must submit your application via the online application process.
- Applications do not need to be completed all in one go. The application is saved as you edit, and you can return to it later. When you are happy with the application, click "Sign and submit". We will confirm the submission in an email. An email containing a tracking number and copy of your answers to date will be emailed to you automatically.
- To return to your application you can either use the personalised link in your welcome email.

4. Acknowledgement email

- Once you have submitted your application you will receive a confirmation email from us to let you know it is being processed.

What happens when we receive your application

Assessment – up to 5 months

- All applications are reviewed by our Grants Team.

- During this time you may be contacted for some additional information.

Decision

- Decisions are made three times a year by our Trustees.
- We cannot guarantee which Trustee meeting your application will go to, as this depends on the number of applications we receive.
- Within three weeks of the Trustee meeting we will send you a letter notifying you of the outcome.

We reserve the right to share with other grant makers information received from applicants requesting funding and from those in receipt of funding from us, unless an organisation expressly requests otherwise. All personal data will be dealt with in line with current Data Protection Policies.

Knowingly providing false information will invalidate any application or grant.

5. Once a decision has been made

What happens if your application is successful?

- If your application is successful we will write to you with an offer letter outlining the terms and conditions of your grant and the next steps. We will do this within three weeks of a decision being made.

What happens if your application is unsuccessful?

- If your application is not successful we will write to you within three weeks of a decision being made.
- We offer verbal feedback to unsuccessful applicants. How to request this is set out in the written notification of an application being unsuccessful.
- If you have had an application for funding declined by us you cannot make another application until at least one year after the date you were notified of the decision.
- All decisions are final and we cannot revisit any decision.