Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Small grants funding opportunity

Eligibility and Applicant Type

1. Who is eligible to apply – can individuals, universities, or charities apply?

Our small grants programme is open to non-profit organisations, as well as profit organisations delivering work on a non-profit basis. Eligible applicants include registered charities, universities, and verifiable individual entities working in fields aligned with our charitable mission.

Applicants must be able to responsibly manage funds, deliver measurable outcomes, and provide recent financial documentation (e.g. annual accounts).

2. Are there any registration requirements?

Applicants must operate on a not-for-profit basis and demonstrate clear public benefit. This may include registered charities, educational institutions, or social enterprises with verifiable status. We are unable to fund for-profit or purely commercial ventures.

3. Where can I view the eligibility criteria in full?

Full eligibility information is available on the Foundation website under the small grants funding page. Applicants should review this carefully before applying to ensure their organisation type and activities meet the criteria.

4. Can applications come from outside the UK, and can projects be delivered internationally?

Yes. We fund work globally, including locally led initiatives, provided the organisation meets our eligibility criteria and the project delivers demonstrable public benefit aligned with our mission.

5. Do you fund projects within the UK?

Yes. UK-based projects are eligible if they align with the Foundation's mission to enhance the safety of life and property, especially within engineering and related systems.

6. Can UK-based and international organisations collaborate?

Yes. Cross-border collaboration is encouraged where it strengthens the project's reach, delivery, or impact.

7. Can more than one project from the same organisation be funded within the same call?

Generally, only one application per lead organisation will be considered per call to ensure fairness. However, additional applications with distinct leads and delivery teams may be allowed. Any organisation worldwide can apply – most funding is expected to go to organisations outside the UK, particularly in developing economies.

8. Can an organisation or individual submit more than one application (for different ideas)?

Multiple applications are permitted only if they are clearly distinct in scope and delivery. Applicants are encouraged to focus on one strong proposal.

9. If an applicant already holds a small grant, can they apply again?

Yes, but only once the previous project is completed and reporting requirements have been met. Returning applicants should demonstrate learning and impact from their prior funding.

10. How many proposals are typically funded per round, and is there a regional limit?

There is no set limit by country or region. The number of funded projects varies based on quality, alignment, and available budget. For example, in the last round we received over 100 applications, of which around 25 were funded.

11. Are small-scale or local initiatives eligible?

Yes. The small grants programme is specifically designed to support early-stage, exploratory, or locally led initiatives that test ideas, methods, or partnerships contributing to safer systems and societies.

Partnership and Collaboration

1. Is partnership or collaboration required?

Collaboration is not mandatory, but partnerships are encouraged – especially where they bring technical expertise, local engagement, or extend the reach of learning.

2. What kind of partners are you looking for?

Partners may include community organisations, research institutions, public bodies, or industry facilitators, as long as they contribute meaningfully to the project's objectives and public benefit.

3. Must the organisations engaged be critical partners for delivery?

No. Where partnerships are essential to achieving outcomes, partners should be clearly defined in the proposal and, where possible, listed as co-applicants or contributors.

4. Do applicants need to provide letters of support from partners?

Letters of support are optional but encouraged where collaboration is central to the project. They may also be provided later during due diligence.

5. Would you consider co-funding if a project already has partial support from another source?

Yes. Co-funding is acceptable if the overall project aligns with our mission and the Foundation's contribution is distinct and non-duplicative.

Scope and Thematic Fit

1. What types of projects are within the scope of the small grants scheme?

Projects must advance the Foundation's mission to enhance the safety of life and property, particularly through engineering, risk, or systems approaches. We welcome both technical and non-technical projects that demonstrate clear public benefit.

2. Do projects need to target all sectors (e.g. Heritage, Maritime, Infrastructure, Skills)?

No. Applicants may focus on one sector. Cross-sector projects are welcome but not required.

3. Do you support only maritime-related projects?

No. While maritime safety remains a priority, we also fund projects across other sectors contributing to safer systems globally – including heritage, public safety, and emerging areas of engineering.

4. Would you consider funding a new segment of a long-term project?

Yes, if the proposed segment is distinct, time-bound, and aligns with the purpose of the small grants programme – to test ideas or extend learning in new directions.

5. How do you define "public benefit"?

Projects must contribute to improved safety or reduced risk for people and communities - not solely benefit private or commercial interests. Findings should be shareable and publicly accessible.

Budget, Funding Limits and Eligible Costs

1. What is the maximum and minimum amount that can be requested?

Applicants may request up to £10,000. Smaller requests are welcome where proportionate to the scope and outcomes.

2. Can the grant be used as part-funding for a project costing more than £10,000?

Yes, provided the Foundation's funding supports a distinct, deliverable work package within the wider project.

3. Do you fund salaries?

The Foundation does not fund full salaries or general overheads. However, reasonable staff time dedicated to project delivery (e.g. coordination, convening) can be included if proportionate and clearly justified.

4. Are consultant or contractor fees eligible?

Yes. External consultants or specialist support can be funded if directly required for delivery.

5. Do you fund equipment or materials?

Specialist equipment essential to project delivery may be considered on a case-by-case basis with clear justification.

6. Are indirect or estate costs eligible?

The Foundation may fund up to 10% of the total grant to cover indirect costs.

7. Do you allow match funding?

Yes, but applicants must ensure that all funding sources are compatible, transparent, and non-duplicative.

8. How detailed should the budget be?

Budgets should link each cost line to an activity or outcome, clearly demonstrating value for money.

Application and Assessment Process

1. How and where do applicants submit proposals?

Applications are submitted through the Foundation's online grants portal, accessible via the website.

2. What documents must be included?

Applicants must provide a completed application form, project summary, budget breakdown, and their organisation's most recent financial accounts.

3. How are applications reviewed and assessed?

Applications are reviewed by the Foundation's programme team and may be referred to external advisors. Decisions are based on strategic fit, feasibility, and potential for impact.

4. What are the key assessment criteria?

We assess proposals against four criteria:

• Alignment with the Foundation's mission and strategy
• Feasibility and proportionality
• Innovation and learning potential
• Delivery and accountability

5. How long does it take to receive a decision?

Applicants can expect a decision within 4 weeks after the call closes.

6. Will feedback be provided to unsuccessful applicants?

Due to volume, we cannot guarantee individual feedback for all applicants but may provide high-level commentary where possible.

7. Can applicants contact the Foundation for eligibility clarification?

Yes. You may contact grants@lrfoundation.org.uk for general guidance. Please note we provide limited advice to ensure fairness and transparency.

8. Will there be future small grants rounds?

Yes. Our small grants programme is ongoing, with periodic open calls announced on our website and in the Foundation's monthly newsletter.

Post–award and Reporting

1. What happens if an application is approved?

Successful applicants will receive a formal contract. Standard Contract Terms will apply, and the full application will form part of this agreement.

2. What are the reporting requirements?

Grantees must submit a brief final report summarising project activities, outcomes, and lessons learned. An introductory meeting will be held after award, with check-ins scheduled during the grant period.

3. Are there expectations around sharing learning?

A: Yes. Outputs should be publicly accessible – through publications, events, or online sharing – to extend the reach of learning.

4. What happens if a project is delayed?

A: Early communication is encouraged. Adjustments may be made on a case-by-case basis with prior approval.

5. Can grant holders apply for continuation funding?

A: No. Small grants are one-off awards to test ideas, though learning may inform future proposals to other Foundation schemes.