

groundswell grant award scheme guidelines

how to fill in the application form

Want to set up your own project?

The Groundswell Grant Award Scheme offers anyone with experience of homelessness up to £700 to set up self-help projects or service user involvement initiatives.

how do I apply?

Please fill in the Groundswell Grant Award scheme application form and contact form, and send them in to Groundswell. See below for more details about filling these in.

what is groundswell?

Groundswell is a national charity. We believe that the only way to tackle homelessness is with the direct involvement of homeless people. We support homeless people to set up their own projects, to get involved in running services and to influence homelessness policy. Check us out at www.groundswell.org.uk

who can apply for an award?

Anyone with experience of homelessness.

You are only allowed one Award per group, so if you have won one previously then, move over and let someone else in! Get in touch if you want advice on other potential funders.

Please note, if you are agency who works with homeless people then do not apply on behalf of your clients – encourage people to apply themselves.

You must be based in the UK.

We are aiming at new or small projects so you can only apply if your group has an annual turnover that is between £0 and definitely no more than £20,000 each year.

what do we mean by homelessness?

Anyone who is insecurely housed, i.e. if you are rough sleeping, living in a hostel or other short-term accommodation, Travelling, squatting, a refugee, asylum seeker, living in a Bed and Breakfast, a half-way house – anyone without a secure tenancy.

what do we mean by project?

We mean a wide range of activities – a client group at a hostel or day centre, an arts group, a business venture, a charity, more or less anything!



The Haven Club

A group of homeless recovering drug and alcohol users from North London came together in October 2002 to create The Haven Club. Their grant was used to purchase equipment to pilot one term of weekly events. The success of the pilot was recognised by Camden and Islington councils who have both gone on to support the project for three years with a total of £50,000. The Haven's warm, social atmosphere of mutual support now benefits hundreds of people a year.



Community Consultants South Kilburn

A group of formerly homeless tenants from South Kilburn came together to provide grassroots consultancy on the regeneration of their estate. Their £500 grant in 2001 was their first successful application. They now work across a range regeneration projects throughout London offering peer research, consultation and training and have a turnover of £100,000 pa.

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groups or individuals?

We prefer examples of people working together, but if you are working alone you can still apply, as long as you can show a collective benefit for your project.

You can apply for a grant with us if you are an informal collection of people or a more formal group with a constitution. If you have plans to grow then it is probably worth getting a constitution at some point, as most other funders make this a requirement. There is information on the Groundswell website for more information on group structures and constitutions.

some examples of the type of applications we are looking for

- ▶ A group of people who all use a day centre and want to set up a magazine.
- ▶ A group of hostel residents who want to start running a Resident Action Group.
- ▶ A community of Travellers who want to convert a vehicle to be used as a classroom.
- ▶ A group of squatters setting up an allotment.
- ▶ A group of former rough sleepers setting up a market stall selling crafts.

some examples of things that won't be considered

- ▶ Any workers in services asking to do anything on behalf of their clients.
- ▶ An individual asking for fees to send them on a course.
- ▶ A project based outside the UK.
- ▶ A UK-based group who want to do work outside the UK.

what happens after I apply?

Awards are made four times a year, but you can send in your form at any time. We will confirm that we received your form within two weeks. So if you do not hear from us, get in touch. Your application will then be forwarded to our committee to be considered at the next deadline. This happens four times a year.

15 January 15 April 15 July 15 October

We will let you know the decision within a month of the deadline.

how are decisions made?

Groundswell has a committee just for this job. It is comprised of people from Groundswell's network with relevant experience (like setting up their own projects, grant making and homelessness). It meets four times a year and assesses applications against these criteria:

- ▶ **Need** - are you addressing an important need?
- ▶ **Impact** - will your project really address this need?
- ▶ **Clarity** - is it clear what will happen if you get the money?
- ▶ **Realistic** - is your project likely to happen?
- ▶ **Budget** - do the figures add up?

Check out the Groundswell website. There is information on other funders, top tips on filling in grant applications, news of upcoming events and the brand new Groundswell Directory – where you can find inspiring examples of homeless led self help groups all across the UK.
www.groundswell.org.uk

flow chart

Get your application form and read the guidelines thoroughly. Any questions? get in touch with Groundswell office.



Fill in application and send in.



Groundswell check if it is eligible. If not, get letter explaining why not. If Yes, get a letter saying that your application has been sent to the committee.



Committee meet and make decisions after each quarterly deadline.



If unsuccessful, get offered a copy of Groundswell Toolkit. Chance to discuss feedback. Welcome to re-apply.



If a winner, we contact your referee. Then you get sent terms and conditions. When signed and returned, we send you a cheque.