

Age-friendly and Inclusive Volunteering Legacy Grant

Background:

The Centre for Ageing Better's review of [Community Contributions in Later Life](#), carried out with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), explored how to enable more people aged 50 and over to contribute their skills, time and knowledge to their communities. It found that making a contribution in our communities – from helping our neighbours to formal volunteering – is good for our individual and collective wellbeing. But too many people are missing out on the benefits of contributing – in particular those who are least healthy and least wealthy.

Following the review, the Centre for Ageing Better managed a grant programme with DCMS in 2019 and awarded grant funding to five projects across England to test out principles of age-friendly and inclusive volunteering set out in the review.

The projects aimed to:

- Sustain **lifelong contributions** and help people remain involved throughout major life changes such as bereavement, caring or developing a health condition;
- Help people connect to and take part in voluntary activities and opportunities that suit their **life circumstances**, including informal and self-organised contributions; and/or
- Provide practical support to include older people who currently face **barriers to volunteering** (for example due to health, language, cultural or social factors).

The focus was on **age-friendly** approaches and not exclusively activities that explicitly target older volunteers, but rather models that are welcoming and inclusive of people in later life (aged 50 and above) in all their diversity.

Each project developed a model of volunteering that they could share to inspire others to take action and enable a more diverse range of people in later life to make a contribution. There was also a focus on understanding how those people who are most at risk of missing out can be supported to get and stay involved in volunteering in ways that work for them.

Through our grant programme, supporting evaluation and follow-up work with our grantees during the pandemic, we identified [five actions](#) (as well as examples of how to operationalise these) for a more age-friendly and inclusive approach to involving over 50s in volunteering and widening participation among different types of people.

What is this grant?

We are now looking to maximise the impact of this work by sharing ownership of our research and learning with an organisation with national spread and influence that has a track record of work with volunteers and/or volunteer involving

organisations to increase uptake of these actions and the principles of age-friendly and inclusive volunteering.

We will provide a grant to one organisation with national reach and influence to take ownership of this learning and mainstream the actions and principles of age-friendly and inclusive volunteering through:

- Embedding these actions and principles into their own practice, and/or
- Encouraging other organisations to embed these actions and principles.

The grant will be up to £28,000 and spent by the end of March 2023.

Who should apply?

We welcome applications from organisations who meet the eligibility criteria below.

In addition, we are looking to fund an organisation that:

1. has national scale, spread and influence
2. will develop and deliver innovative and creative approaches to embed/ incorporate the research and learning we have developed on age-friendly and inclusive volunteering into their practice or the practice of organisations they work with and support
3. will use this research and learning to enhance or extend their existing offer/ practice
4. is committed to reaching people who are most at risk of missing out on volunteering and community contribution opportunities
5. will be able to show how they will measure and communicate the impact of this work
6. will be happy to report to the Centre for Ageing Better throughout the grant at jointly agreed milestones

Who is this grant for?

We can only fund:

- Charities registered in England and Wales
- Community Interest Companies limited by guarantee and registered with Companies House

We can't fund:

- Organisations based outside the UK, or activities taking place outside England
- Individuals or sole traders
- Applications made on behalf of another organisation, although we welcome applications seeking to build stronger relationships and collaborations between different organisations
- Organisations aimed at generating profits primarily for private distribution
- Organisations that are mainly fundraising bodies

- Schools, colleges or hospitals
- Statutory or public bodies

If you do not meet the above criteria, you cannot apply for this grant.

As part of the application process we will also ask you to self-certify that:

- You have a UK bank account in your organisation's name which requires at least two signatories to authorise expenditure
- You have at least three months' unrestricted reserves
- You can identify and account for this grant as restricted funding
- You have read and will agree to our standard terms and conditions (set out in Appendix 1)

If you answer 'no' to any of the above, you cannot apply for this grant.

If your application is successful, we may ask for proof of the above.

As part of the application process we will also ask you to sign and return:

- Non-canvassing Certificate (set out in Appendix 2)
- Supply Chain of Conduct (set out in Appendix 3)

What can you spend the grant on?

We can fund the revenue costs of your project, for example:

- Staff time
- Costs of meetings and convening stakeholders / participants (e.g. venue, travel, catering etc.)
- Training
- Production costs for outputs associated with the grant (e.g. design etc.)
- Other running costs (e.g. publicity, costs of facilitation or support, transport / logistics, stationery and consumable supplies, printing etc.)

We can't fund:

- Capital costs such as IT equipment or vehicles
- Party political, lobbying or religious activities
- Costs of fundraising activities or general marketing of the organisation
- Costs of providing statutory duties or services, or other activities separately funded by another public sector body
- Interest, lease, hire purchase or other financing payments
- Reclaimable VAT charges (where you are able to reclaim the VAT charged to you against VAT payments which you are eligible to make to HMRC)
- Fines, bad debts, compensation payments or similar penalties

The grant cannot be used to deliver existing work that is fully funded from another source.

How we will assess the applications

Each application will be assessed on the basis of the criteria set out below. The Centre for Ageing Better has allocated a maximum weighting for each criterion as follows:

Criterion	Weighting (%)	What we're looking for
Organisation and experience [section 2 of application form]	20	A strong application will be able to demonstrate that the organisation has national scale, spread and influence and experience of work in this area
Approach and delivery plan [section 3.1 of application form]	30	A strong application will be able to identify innovative and creative approaches to embed/ incorporate this work into their practice/ practice of organisations they work with and support, and demonstrate how they will achieve this
Expansion/ enhancement of current work [sections 3.2 and 3.3 of application form]	20	A strong application will be able to demonstrate how the proposed approach will expand and/ or enhance their current offer/ work. It will also be able to demonstrate how this work will reach people who are most at risk of missing out on volunteering and community contribution opportunities
Impact and measurement [section 4 of the application form]	20	A strong application will be able to demonstrate what impact they hope to achieve and provide a clear idea of how this will be measured and who it will be communicated with
Value for money [to be assessed through sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the application form]	10	A strong application will be able to demonstrate how they can make the most effective use of resources to deliver impact
TOTAL	100	

Scoring

The applications will be scored on a scale of 0 to 4 by reference to the following score guide:

Score	Description
4	Exceptional. Demonstrates strengths, no weakness or omissions. Exceeds expectations in some or all respects.
3	Good. The standard of application fully meets expectations.
2	Satisfactory. The response is acceptable with some minor reservations.
1	Poor. The response is deficient in certain areas.
0	Rejected. The response is unacceptable or non-existent, or there is a failure to properly address any issue.

How to apply

Applicants should complete the online application form and return it to volunteeringreview@ageing-better.org.uk by **12pm 24th January 2022**.

Any queries should also be emailed to volunteeringreview@ageing-better.org.uk by **12pm 10th January 2022**.

We will provide clarification to any questions on the grant by 12th January 2022.

[in the interest of fairness any responses to clarification questions will be published publicly on our website for interested grant applicants].

The closing date for applications is 12pm 24th January 2022. Please notify us of your intention to bid by 13th January 2022.

All applicants will receive acknowledgement of submission by email. Applications will be reviewed by a shortlisting panel.

We reserve the right to interview applicants and appointment will be subject to due diligence processes.

A final decision on the grant award will be made by 25th February 2022 and communicated to all applicants via email.