

The Talbot Trusts – Application Guidance

(Last Updated May 2025)

The Talbot Trusts is a registered charity which makes grants to organisations supporting the health and wellbeing of people living in Sheffield and the surrounding areas.

We usually make grants of £3,000 but we may occasionally award larger amounts of up to £5,000.

If you have trouble accessing or completing our online application form and it would help to be able to complete your application in a different way, we are more than happy to speak to you about this. Please get in touch with us by emailing admin@thetalbottrusts.com.

Sometimes when we read an application, we feel that we need a little more information in order to make a decision about whether to award a grant. In these cases, we may ask you to provide further information in writing, join us at a meeting of our Board of Trustees or meet with one of our Trustees individually. We will only do this where necessary and when we think there is a realistic chance that we will ultimately decide to award your organisation a grant.

Who and what do we fund?

We generally make unrestricted grants which the organisations we fund can use in any way they want to support their work. These are given to charities and community organisations whose main focus is on improving the health and wellbeing of people in Sheffield and the surrounding areas.

We fund organisations whose work fits with at least one of our current priorities, which are:

- Reducing the impact of poverty with a focus on homelessness and insecure housing
- Preventing or reducing the impact of long-term health conditions by encouraging healthy choices and active lifestyles
- Improving health and wellbeing by encouraging connection with nature

We prioritise organisations which specifically target their support at disadvantaged and marginalised members of the community.

Please note that we don't fund research.

We also welcome applications from:

- organisations whose main focus is in a different area (e.g. arts, animal welfare, nature and the environment) but who have specific projects focused on improving people's health and wellbeing
- organisations whose work is delivered across a wider geographic area which includes Sheffield (e.g. Yorkshire)

In these cases if the application is successful we will make a restricted grant which can only be used for certain projects or parts of an organisation's work.

What types of organisations do we fund?

We support local organisations working in and for communities across Sheffield and the surrounding areas. We fund not-for-profit organisations including:

- Registered charities
- Charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs)
- Community interest companies (CICs)
- Community groups

We do not fund:

- Profit-making organisations
- Individuals
- National organisations (although we do fund branches of national organisations as long as they are financially independent)
- Organisations with more than 12 months' operating costs in free/unrestricted reserves, unless a clear and reasonable explanation can be provided for holding this level of reserves

What do we consider when assessing applications?

Most importantly, in your application you must explain how your organisation's work meets our priorities as set out above and provide any evidence you have to demonstrate this.

We also consider a range of other things which are listed below. For each one, we have noted in brackets if there are specific questions on the application form which are most relevant.

We prioritise organisations which:

- Specifically target and support people from disadvantaged and marginalised communities (Question 18)
- Understand how their work fits in with other support and services available locally and aim to work in partnership with other organisations where possible (Question 20)
- Can show that their work has a long-term and lasting impact (Question 16)
- Have a clear and robust plan to fund their work so that it is sustainable for the long-term (Question 21)

When making our decisions, we also consider:

- Whether there is a real need for your organisation's services and whether you have clearly demonstrated this in your application (Question 15)
- Your organisation's track record and ability to deliver your services effectively
- Whether there are other organisations delivering similar services in the same area that might suggest unnecessary duplication (Question 20)
- How relevant your work is to the needs and priorities of people in the area you work in
- The impact of your work. What difference do you make to the people you work with? How many people do you support? Is your support available to everyone who needs it? (Question 16)
- How much you need our grant and whether there are other, more suitable places for you to go to for funding

We usually receive far more applications than we can fund* and we may sometimes decide to prioritise organisations which we have not funded before. All grant awards are made at the discretion of The Talbot Trusts' Trustees and their decision in each case is final.

*On average around 25 – 30% of organisations that apply to us in each round are successful

Our application and decision-making process

We usually open for applications twice per year and the relevant dates for 2025 are given on the next page.

Round 1

Applications open: Monday 26th May

Applications close: Friday 20th June

For this round, organisations will find out by 31st July whether their applications have been successful.

Round 2

Applications open: Monday 20th October

Applications close: Friday 14th November

For this round, organisations will find out by 18th December whether their applications have been successful.

If your application is successful, your offer letter will set out the terms and conditions of the grant, including any restrictions on its use and the requirement to complete a feedback form at the end of your grant period.

If your application is not successful, we will let you know the main reason(s) for this decision, but you are always welcome to contact us if you have further questions.

What do we do with your data?

For information about what data we hold, why we hold it and what we do with it, please see the privacy notice on our website -

<https://thetalbottrusts.com/grant-application/>.

Our contact details

If you have any questions about anything in this document or your eligibility for funding, please contact Gill Newman.

Email address: admin@thetalbottrusts.com

Telephone: 07773 660552

Guidance relating to specific questions on the application form

Question 14 – Please briefly tell us about your organisation and what you do

It is important that we can understand your whole organisation and all of the services you provide. So please use this space to tell us about everything you do and not just the work which fits our funding priorities.

Question 17 – How do your services help to meet our priorities?

It is important that we can understand which parts of your work support people and deliver benefits that fit with our priorities, and which don't. Within this answer, please explain clearly which of your services, as described in Question 16, fit with our priorities and how.

Question 18 – Who benefits from your services? Where do they come from? How do you ensure that your support is targeted at disadvantaged and marginalised members of our community?

Remember that The Talbot Trusts exists to support people living in Sheffield and the surrounding areas. Please make sure that you explain clearly in your answer how many of the people you support live in this area.

Question 21 – Please tell us briefly about how you raise the funds you need to deliver your services

We need to see that you have a clear and sustainable plan to fund your organisation in the long-term and that you're not relying too heavily on a single income stream or a small number of funders. Please use this space to briefly outline that plan.

Question 23 – Is there anything else you want to tell us about your finances?

If you have free/unrestricted reserves which equate to more than 12 months' ongoing expenditure, you must use this space to provide an explanation for why you need to hold this level of reserves. If you do not, then your application will be rejected.

You may also want to use this space to comment if the figures in your accounts or budget are unusual in any way (e.g. if you received an exceptionally large legacy gift or spent a large amount on a one-off purchase). This helps us to have a more accurate picture of your financial situation.