

Expression of Interest (EOI) Process - Applicant FAQs

Q1. What is the Expression of Interest (EOI) process?

We've made applying simpler with a two-stage process. First, you submit a short Expression of Interest (Stage One) application. This gives us an overview of your organisation and funding request, so we can quickly assess eligibility and fit with our funding priorities. This means you'll get faster feedback without putting time into a longer application that might not be suitable.

Q2. How do I know if my organisation is eligible?

Our eligibility criteria hasn't changed. If you've applied to us successfully before, you probably won't need another eligibility check. If you're new to us, we'll review eligibility as part of your EOI. You can find out more about our eligibility criteria [here](#).

Q3. How long is the EOI application form?

It's short and straightforward. We just ask for the essentials: what your organisation does, what you're seeking funding for, the need you're addressing and how your work aligns with our funding priorities. In some cases, this may be all we need to make a funding decision.

Q4. What happens after I submit an EOI?

Once received, we'll review your EOI for eligibility and fit with our funding priorities. We'll then either:

- Invite you to submit a full application
- Match your EOI directly with available funding (for smaller or straightforward requests)
- Let you know it's not suitable at this time, with feedback where appropriate
- Keep it on file for future funding opportunities

Q5. How quickly will I hear back about my EOI?

You should receive a response within one month. We'll let you know whether your EOI is moving on to the next stage, being matched to a funding opportunity, or if it isn't suitable at this time.

Q6. What happens if I'm invited to submit a Stage Two application?

The Stage Two application builds on your EOI. We'll ask for more detail about your project and the impact you expect it to have. The questions will be proportionate to the size of grant you're applying for. For some projects, we may also request further supporting documents or evidence.

Q7. What happens if my EOI is not successful?

If your organisation isn't eligible, we'll let you know as soon as possible. If you are eligible but your request is not the right fit for us, we'll share feedback. You're welcome to submit a new EOI when the next application window opens. We'll keep your EOI on file for up to 12 months in case a better-suited funding opportunity arises.

Q8. Are there application deadlines?

Yes. Our Main grants open several times a year, typically in Spring, Summer and Autumn/Winter. Some funds (within the Main grants) also accept applications on a rolling basis, while others have set deadlines. From time to time, we may highlight particular funding priorities. Our Additional grants each have their own set deadlines, criteria and application processes.

Q9. How often can I submit an EOI?

You can submit a new EOI when application windows are open. If your previous EOI was unsuccessful due to fit (rather than eligibility), you're welcome to apply again with a different project or when circumstances change. Generally, we can only award one grant per organisation in a 12-month period. However, some grants may be made in instalments (depending on funding availability).

Q10. How are EOIs matched to funding opportunities?

Once we've reviewed your EOI, we'll see if it's a good general fit for our funding and then look for opportunities to match it with specific funds or donors whose interests align with your work. If there isn't an immediate match, we'll keep your EOI on file for up to a year and review it when new funding becomes available.

Q11. What grant amounts do you typically award?

Most of our grants are between £5,000 and £10,000. We can sometimes award larger amounts, depending on donor preferences and project needs. Multi-year grants are also possible where appropriate.

Q12. Do you offer unrestricted funding?

Yes. We usually provide unrestricted grants, which you can use for core or project costs. The only exceptions are when we, or a donor, set a specific requirement. Our aim is to give you flexibility to put funds where they're most needed in your organisation.

Q13. Do you fund capital projects and events?

We generally only fund capital costs when this is specifically requested by a donor. For events, we prefer to fund activities that are part of a longer-term programme rather than one-off events. Please submit applications for time-sensitive events at least six months in advance. For capital projects, we'll need to see that other funding is confirmed and that the project element is discrete and standalone.

Q14. Can I apply to your Main grants and an Additional grant at the same time?

Yes, you can apply to both. Just make sure to check the eligibility criteria for the Additional grants.

Q15. What if my circumstances change during the application process?

Please get in touch if anything changes that may affect your application. If your funding needs change, or you no longer require support, let us know by emailing grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org.