

Frontline Network Alliance FAQs

When is the closing date?

- 5pm Friday 13th August

How much can I apply for?

- You can apply for up to £100,000 per annum.
- We are making available £500,000 in total and hope to fund 5 charities/ projects.

How many years is the funding for?

- We anticipate this being a multi-year partnership where our funding relationships could stretch **over a minimum of three years**.
- We are seeking a strong partnership, where learning between ourselves and our Partners is shared.

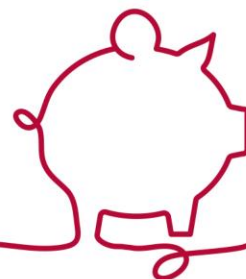
If successful, when would we hear from you?

- We are working to a timeframe of notifying successful applicants **by 30th September 2021**. Please note, timeframes may be subject to minor changes.
- During 16th August- 13th September, our assessment panel will review and assess all applications.
- At this point we will contact applicants with requests for further information, detail or questions on their applications by email.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to give a presentation and interview via an online meeting.

What can I use the funding for?

- The funding can be used for service delivery projects supporting people experiencing homelessness across the UK.
- We are looking to enter a working partnership where we provide funding to enable organisations to deliver existing services more effectively or develop a new service for which there is an evidence-based need.

I am in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, am I able to apply?



- Yes! We really welcome applications across all of the 4 Nations of the UK. We are especially interested in funding projects outside of London and across other areas.

Are there set categories that I apply around?

- We welcome the opportunity to work with charities which are focusing on one, or more, of the following areas, for example:
 - **Immigration and homelessness** - No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and operating in the hostile environment to support those with immigration and homelessness issues. This area is becoming increasingly complex and uncertain for people directly accessing services and frontline staff/ organisations working to provide support provision.
 - **Health and homelessness** - frontline workers have told us that it is difficult to access specialist healthcare support for people they are working with, particularly dual diagnosis issues. We are interested in understanding this issue and supporting an organisation seeking to address it.
 - **Hidden homelessness** - this could include a focus on people who are sofa surfing; staying with friends and family and 'hidden' statistics, out of sight and mind from support and access to housing.
 - **Safe, inclusive spaces and practice** - this could include a focus on spaces that offer gender-specific, trans-inclusive, LGBTQ+ safe, inclusive spaces and work practice.
 - **Older people experiencing homelessness** – we are particularly keen to hear about work with men between the age of 30yrs and late 50yrs who can often be forgotten, and not seen as priority need.
 - **Leaving secure settings** - adults and young people in contact with the Criminal Justice System, young people leaving care, people leaving Mental Health facilities.

Is there a set way of working you would expect from applicant organisations?

- We support using multi-disciplinary team approaches, that is, how staff and organisations work collaboratively to co-ordinate approaches across the voluntary, public and statutory sectors. We would anticipate seeing some evidence of this across all the activities we support.

How do I apply?

- You need to read through all of the supporting information on our website and complete pages 4-6 of the enclosed application form. **Please note-** you will also need to attach a full budget as a separate attachment relating to these activities.
- When we invite organisations to apply for a grant, we seek clarity on the issue to be addressed, who will benefit, why the work is needed, and the extent to which the work is informed by those working on the frontline and the people they support.
- We will also ask the potential Partners to explain how they will use the funding and how they know that their approaches are effective and will have an impact.

Are there any specific requests as part of the funding?

- We want to tell your story and would look to include stories of your work in our fundraising activity. This would include the annual BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal with St Martin-in-the-Fields.
- We are committed to working in a person-led, strengths-based way as part of this.

Criteria of an organisation to be able apply for funding

- We recognise that there are many charities who would like and would benefit from our support but, like any funder, we have a limit to the resources we have available.
- We want to be open and transparent with charities and make best use of time by being clear in advance which charities and areas we are more likely to fund.
- We welcome applications from all parts of the UK. We will prioritise spend outside of London and across the other UK Nations, as we currently provide funding to The Connection at St Martin's.

All applicants will:

- Be a registered charity (this can be as a CIO)
 - Be a Board of at least three unrelated Trustees
 - Have its own bank account
 - Have free reserves of less than 12 months' operating costs
 - Have at least one set of annual accounts published on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, Charity Commission for England and Wales, Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator websites, having been delivering services for more than a year in the UK
 - Have a track record of working with people experiencing homelessness
 - Have a safeguarding policy in place.
- We would particularly like to work with small and medium sized organisations.

How will I report to you?

- We offer flexibility and choice in frequency but ask for a minimum of 6monthly reporting.
- Reports will be submitted to the Partnerships Manager
- Our application form asks you how often, what format and what information you think this should include.
- We also ask you to include your thoughts for how you could update us in-between reporting. For example;
 - Sharing updates as and when they happen via Twitter, email, phone call
 - Writing a blog for our News and Views section
 - Sharing Stories to meet timeframes for our BBC Radio 4 Christmas and July Appeals

Is there anyone we can contact if we have queries on this?

- Please send any other questions to frontline@smartinscharity.org.uk and we will get back to you.

If successfully funded, will I have a set point of contact for this work at the Frontline Network?

- Yes. Our Partnerships Manager, Amanda Bennett, will manage this relationship with you and be your main point of contact.
- She will also be a link to other successfully funded organisations, to support links and shared learning to take place.

Additional FAQs, added 09.07.21

Are you looking particularly for Christian-led organisations?

- No, we are equally open to supporting organisations of all faiths or none.

Will existing Frontline Network partners or non-partners be given priority?

- Neither existing partners, nor non-partners will be given priority. The opportunity is open to everyone on an equal basis if they meet the stated criteria.

Is it worthwhile for London-based charities to apply?

- If it is a very London focused project it is likely to be a lower priority. However if you are a London-based charity looking to deliver a project elsewhere this would be less of a problem. We appreciate some organisations have offices in London but their work takes place in a different location(s) across the UK.

Can we submit an application in partnership with a larger organisation?

- We would particularly like to work with small and medium sized organisations. We are interested in the quality of the proposal and would be open to this if the project was supported by a larger organisation and that added particular value. We would however like the funding to have a real impact for the recipient rather than be an additional funding stream.

How are people experiencing homelessness and frontline staff involved in projects?

- We are looking to fund something that directly benefits people who are experiencing homelessness. We are also keen that frontline staff and people with lived experience of homelessness, are involved in the design of projects.
- Through some of our other Frontline Network activities we already have a focus on supporting frontline staff and improving practice, so for this funding we are looking to support service delivery more directly.

If it is a multiyear grant, how is it divided or is that down to the charity?

- It is up to the charity exactly how much they request each year, however we would not be able to heavily frontload the funding, the amount would need to be relatively consistent.

Does the project have to have a local, regional or national focus?

- To date with our Frontline Network we have tended to focus within regions or localities and build up from there, however if there was a strong national project this would also be considered.

When would funding start?

- Funding could start from October at the earliest, this would be agreed in order to fit with the applicant's service model.

What is the proposed project start date?

- We do not have a proposed project start, we are aware that it will depend on the nature of the project and will listen to the needs of the applicant. Funding decisions will be made at the end of September, so for some projects, preparatory work may start in October with the project going live in the New Year. If the project will not be new, but instead develops an existing service, this may be quicker.

Can projects also support people who are not actually homeless, but threatened with homelessness or vulnerably housed?

- Yes we are looking for projects which predominantly support people experiencing homelessness, but take a broad definition of 'homelessness' which includes individuals living in hostels, shelters, and temporary supported accommodation, as well as hidden homelessness – including sofasurfers, and others living insecurely in sheds or cars.

Would you consider funding projects helping people regularise their immigration to enable them to access housing etc.

- Yes

Can the project include grant giving within it?

- Yes

Is funding available for rent?

- Possibly, depending on the project, you are welcome to get in touch with us to discuss.

Additional FAQs, added 15.07.21

The application form has the title 'core funding'. Does this mean you won't fund service delivery?

- We are looking to fund direct service delivery. We have changed the title of the form to 'FN Alliance' to correct this. If you are still using the form with the previous title that is not a problem.

Our overall income is high, however a large proportion of this is restricted funds for specific work. Can we apply?

- Yes, we understand the nature of restricted funds – this is why we moved away from having an actual ceiling for £ income. What we are interested in is why our money is needed and what difference it might make. Please ensure you explain the restricted funds point in your application.

Additional FAQs, added 20.07.21

How can we work with the Frontline Network?

- We would actively facilitate and support FN Alliance grantees to engage with the Frontline Network, for example in order to test out ideas and share experiences.

Can our project include advocacy?

- We are primarily looking to support service delivery, however we recognise that projects may include evidence-based advocacy to amplify learning about what works and we would like to support this.

Additional FAQs, added 27.07.21

How can we outline whether our approach is effective?

- This will need to be informed and guided by your specific plan and the thematic approach you are focusing on. You may wish to consider what assessment tools and methods you might use, qualitative and quantitative approaches. What would be your approach? What would a successful and effective project look like in practice to you and the people you are supporting via this?

As this funding relates to your specific service delivery approach and working with people directly- you would need to consider and explain the different areas you will consider around this in your thematic focus.

The following questions in our application form builds on this further as we ask about what a positive outcome would look like to you as well as M&E approaches. We appreciate your answer to this may also link to later questions, and our review panel will assess each application as a whole.

Additional FAQs, added 02.08.21

Will you accept applications from registered societies such as community benefits societies that are charity exempt?

- Yes.

Can funding cover direct staffing costs?

- Yes, as long as this aligns with your service delivery idea, application and proposed plan. Our panel of assessors will review all applications and budgets after our closing date on 13th August, as part of this process we may come back to you with queries if anything is not clear.

Our current annual income is considerably less than the £100,000 that we could apply for under the Frontline Network Alliance. Will this be an issue for us being able to apply?

- As part of our review process, our panel of assessors would review your application and budget for your idea and take into consideration this increase in income to your normal annual budget. As part of this process, it maybe that we add in some additional due diligence aspects to support you managing this increased income.

Additional FAQs, added 09.08.21

Can we apply with partner organisations?

- Yes, however we require a lead organisation to submit the application and manage the grant (for example reporting and managing payments).