

WORCESTERSHIRE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT



August 2015

WELCOME

The Covenant Fund is nearly here, but we didn't want to wait until our next scheduled newsletter to bring you the latest information on this new scheme. Read on to find out more ahead of its formal launch on 13 August 2015 and also details of further funding available for communities to explore, conserve and share local heritage of the First World War.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Adams".

Cllr Rob Adams

Chair of the Worcestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership

THE COVENANT FUND

About the fund

The Covenant Fund is one of many funds available through government, trusts, lottery distributors, European funding and other sources. Its budget is not unlimited, and it won't be possible to do everything they want to do with it straight away, instead, government think it's important to do a few things very well each year, and have a real impact in some specific areas of need.

£10 million is available every year, and this year they are allocating funding for:

1. community integration projects
2. the coordination and delivery of support to the armed forces community
3. projects which address issues facing veterans in the criminal justice system

There will be 2 application routes:

- [small grants](#) for projects requiring up to £20,000
- [large grants](#) for projects requiring between £20,001 and £500,000

THE 3 PRIORITIES

1. Community Integration Projects

What's it about?

Under this priority government will fund projects which create strong local links between the armed forces and civilian communities; which overcome barriers; and improve perceptions, attitudes and understanding.

Applying

Government see community integration projects as being mainly smaller, one year grants that use the [small grants](#) route. They will consider community integration projects requiring over £20,000 through the [large grants](#) route, but the project will have to be an exemplar of its kind though, showing a truly integrated approach and shared benefits for the armed forces and civilians alike.

What are the main criteria?

Whilst they will fund a range of project activities, in many ways the approach to developing and delivering, then sustaining the benefits of the project will be more important than the activities which are undertaken.

So they will prioritise projects which:

- are locally rooted and driven
- are jointly developed and delivered by armed forces and civilian partners
- have lasting benefits for both civilians and armed forces communities
- will be able to demonstrate real impact in overcoming barriers; and improving perceptions, attitudes and understanding.

They will consider both revenue and capital projects, as long as they clearly address the above criteria. They are keen to see projects which link to the whole armed forces community, including families and ex-service personnel, and not just serving personnel.

They would envisage that the majority of community integration projects apply through the [small grants](#) route and are led by either an armed forces charity or a local authority.

Who can apply?

The lead organisation can be either a registered charity or a statutory body, such as a local authority. If the application is not led by an armed forces charity, it must have an armed forces charity as a key partner. Other types of organisation can be partners in applications. All project work must be done on a not for profit basis.

2. The Coordination And Delivery Of Support To The Armed Forces Community

What's it about?

By “the coordination and delivery of support” they mean a range of support (including financial, housing, mental and physical health, employability and social support) for serving armed forces personnel, ex-service personnel, and their families.

Government recognise the value of local schemes and acknowledge that some gap filling may be required, including smaller one year projects which require under £20,000 and use the [small grants](#) route. However, they think it is essential that they do not just fund a proliferation of websites, drop-in centres and help lines, but rather focus on service provision that is well-publicised, accessible, joined up and end-to-end. They are especially interested in partnerships and portfolios of projects which work together to create integrated pathways through this service provision and apply through the [large grants](#) route.

They would expect the majority of coordination and delivery of support to the armed forces community projects to be funded through the large grants route.

They are particularly keen to see applications from strong, meaningful partnerships and organisations that have a good track record of delivering similar strategic projects across regions and nationally.

What are the main criteria?

They primarily want to fund coordinated, end-to-end approaches towards advice and support, which means they want to see organisations connecting to create joined up services and person centred pathways through those services. However, they are also willing to fund new and imaginative approaches on a smaller scale. This includes replications, where projects take something that has worked in a different location or sector and try it in a new place.

So they will prioritise projects which:

- link person centred services into a seamless whole
- can demonstrate through consultation and engagement that they have clearly identified their beneficiaries and understand their needs
- are well planned and will be effectively delivered
- can deliver strategic solutions and measurable outcomes which will have lasting benefits for beneficiaries

The lead applicant must be able to show evidence of:

- being well connected and working with relevant organisations
- genuine and effective partnership working
- a track record of successfully delivering large strategic projects
- having a real understanding of the issues they are going to address and the area they work in.

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3. Issues Facing Veterans In The Criminal Justice System

What's it about?

Under “veterans in the criminal justice system” they are particularly keen to see projects which help provide a joined up service to former members of the armed forces that come into contact with the police, courts and prisons.

They recognise the value of local schemes and acknowledge that some gap filling may be required, including smaller one year projects which require under £20,000 and use the [small grants](#) route. However, they think it is essential that they do not just fund a proliferation of websites, drop-in centres and help lines, but rather focus on service provision that is well-publicised, accessible, joined up and end-to-end. They are especially interested in partnerships and portfolios of projects which work together to create integrated pathways through this service provision and apply through the [large grants](#) route.

They would expect the majority veterans in the criminal justice system projects to be funded through the large grants route.

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COVENANT FUND SMALL GRANTS

When?

The small grants programme will be a single stage process with a short application form. The key dates you need to know are:

	Round 1	Round 2
Open for applications	13 August 2015	28 October 2015
Closing date	17 September 2015	17 December 2015
Decisions by	26 November 2015	10 March 2016

How much?

One off funding of between £1,000 and £20,000 are available, for projects lasting up to 12 months.

COVENANT FUND LARGE GRANTS

When?

The key dates you need to know are:

Open for expressions of interest	13 August
Closing date for expressions of interest	24 September
Expression of interest decisions communicated, and invitations to stage 2 sent out, by	26 November 2015
Deadline for stage 2 applications	13 January 2016
Stage 2 decisions communicated by	10 March 2016

How much?

Grants of up to £500,000 are available, for projects lasting up to three years. For applications requesting over £300,000 however, applicants must consult with us before applying. The project will have to be an exemplar of its kind to be awarded more than £300,000, with excellent coverage, delivery and impact.

HLF ANNOUNCES FURTHER £4M FUNDING FOR FIRST WORLD WAR FUND

The Culture Secretary has announced that the Heritage Lottery Fund will make an additional £4 million available in 2015/16 for more local communities to explore the impact of war.

Ahead of the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, the Heritage Lottery Fund has announced that further funding will be made available in 2015/16 to communities looking to explore, conserve and share local heritage of the First World War.

The £6 million **'First World War: Then and Now'** grant scheme, which opened in 2013 and runs until 2019, will benefit from an additional £4 million funding. The scheme has already made it possible for thousands of young people and communities throughout the UK to get involved in activities marking the Centenary, including researching and recording local heritage, conserving and finding out more about war memorials and using digital technology to share the fascinating stories that have been uncovered.

HLF is offering further funding to ensure that even more people get the opportunity to discover more about the War which affected millions of people around the world and changed the world we live in. It is hoped that the additional money will enable stories surrounding the Battle of the Somme to be uncovered and explored.

Not-for-profit organisations and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations in the UK are eligible to apply as long as they have a constitution and a bank account. Applicants could include charities, trusts, clubs, interest groups, community and voluntary groups, community and parish councils, faith groups, history groups, schools, colleges, social enterprises, residents' associations and youth groups.

Grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 are available for community projects that explore, conserve and share their First World War heritage and deepen their understanding of the impact of the conflict. Projects should make a difference to people and be completed in less than two years.

Speaking as the additional funding was announced, Sir Peter Luff, Chair of the HLF, said: "The demand for National Lottery funding for First World War projects has been phenomenal, so much so we've decided to make extra money available. This will mean in particular that more young people can explore the momentous events of a war that shaped our nation, Europe and the world. Next year marks the centenary of the Battle of Somme and if groups want support for projects in 2016, they need to start thinking about applying now".

The Heritage Lottery Fund points out that there is a short application form which is suitable for everyone, including first-time applicants.

Applications can be made at any time.

Full details are available on the HLF [website](#).

If you have any feedback, contributions or suggestions on this or future issues please contact Alan Smith, Worcestershire Partnership Relationship Manager by email at asmith3@worcestershire.gov.uk or call on 01905 822836