



Grant Making Guidelines for Applicants

SASC Trust:
An independent charity and
grant-making foundation funding
lasting solutions to homelessness

SASC Trust

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About SASC Trust

SASC Trust is a grant-making charity, committed to partnering with social sector organisations to identify and scale lasting solutions to homelessness.

Our Vision

That those experiencing and working to tackle homelessness have sufficient resources to make positive change – delivering solutions with and for those facing immediate need, whilst also using their expertise and insight to help identify and prevent the underlying causes of homelessness.

Our Mission

SASC Trust partners social sector organisations to identify and scale lasting solutions to homelessness.

Our Values

We believe in better

- We are committed to a fairer, more equitable society
- We recognise the strength and expertise of the social sector
- We work in partnership to imagine and realise new solutions
- We support self-sufficiency rather than perpetual dependency
- We aim to be an exemplar funder – minimising bureaucracy, providing flexibility, and recognising with humility our contribution to our partners' impact

We listen to learn

- We are committed to dialogue and co-creation
- We hold hypotheses lightly, actively seeking evidence and insight
- We believe solutions emerge from dialogue and that learning with and from our partners is vital

We move at pace

- We recognise the urgency of the homelessness crisis
- We keep processes simple and decision making clear and timely
- We minimise administrative burden on organisations

What We Fund

Our Focus

SASC Trust funds work addressing **housing and homelessness**. We support both:

- **Responsive interventions** that provide support to those experiencing homelessness now
- **Preventative approaches** that address underlying causes of homelessness

We are a **permissive rather than prescriptive funder**. We trust that you know your organisation and communities best. Rather than dictating specific interventions or outcomes, we invite you to define your own impact goals and share your expertise about what works and why.

Type of Funding

We offer **flexible funding** that enables you to:

- Deliver your core mission effectively
- Fund activities that are difficult to secure funding from elsewhere
- Invest in organisational capacity and sustainability
- Respond to emerging needs and opportunities

Grant Duration

We offer **multi-year grants (up to three years)** to provide stability and enable longer-term planning. However, we will respond to what you need – if shorter-term or one-off funding better serves your organisation, please tell us in your application.

Grant Size

In our first grant-making round in 2026, we are looking to award up to £1m in grants. The maximum size of a grant that will be awarded is £150,000 over up to three years. This means we expect to award up approximately 7 grants. The total eligible universe comprises 38 organisations.

What we don't fund

We will not fund:

- One off or annual events such as galas or festivals
- Sponsorship
- Activities that take place outside of the UK
- Activities that have already taken place or projects that are already completed
- Endowment appeals or growth in reserves
- Public works of art or monuments
- Fundraising activity

Who Can Apply

Eligibility Criteria

For our current funding rounds, we welcome applications from organisations that are:

- ✓ **Current or former investees of SASC LLP**
- ✓ **Focused on housing and/or homelessness**
- ✓ **Registered charities or charitable social enterprises operating in the UK**

Over time, our funding universe may broaden.

How to Apply

Our Approach

We aim to minimise bureaucracy and keep the application process as straightforward as possible. Applications are developed through **dialogue and co-creation** with SASC Trust, not through lengthy forms or prescriptive templates.

Step 1: Invitation to submit an Expression of Interest

If we think you are eligible for funding, we will contact you directly, sharing

- Our eligibility criteria
- Our Grant Making Guidelines including details of what will be required in any application
- An overview of our grant-making process, including how and when applications will be assessed
- The anticipated number and size of grants, and advance notice of the second round of grant-making anticipated later in 2026.
- Details of next steps and deadline for expression of interest

You will also be invited – and are strongly encouraged – to attend one of our Q&A webinars to learn more about SASC Trust and to ask any questions you have about our funding. These sessions will be held by our Grant Manager, Ruth Davison, Grant Manager (Consultant), ruth@socialandsustainable.com

During the session, Ruth will outline

- How to confirm whether your organisation is eligible for funding
- Who SASC Trust is and what our vision, mission and values are
- What SASC Trust will and will not fund, including details of the number and value of awards that will be made
- What the application process will involve

After having attended a webinar, if you are interested in applying, please submit an Expression of Interest and confirm your eligibility for funding by emailing our Grant Manager. She will then share the Application template with you.

Step 2: Develop Your Application

If you are invited to submit an application, our Grant Manager will work with you to develop this. It is a dialogue, not a test, and you will have 8 weeks from the time we invite you to express interest in funding to develop and submit your application. We will welcome submissions in writing, in the form of a video or via a documented conversation with our Grant Manager. The template we will share with you will provide the basis for your written application, your video script or the conversation with our Grant Manager.

What to Include in Your Application

Your application should cover the following areas. The template will guide you through these sections

1. About Your Organisation
2. The Need You're Addressing
3. How You'll Use SASC Trust Funding
4. Learning and Impact
5. Safeguarding, Financial Management and Governance

What Happens Next

Our Decision-Making Process

1. **Initial review:** Our Grant Manager reviews your application and may ask clarifying questions and request certain documentation. At this stage, initial due diligence will also be undertaken on your organisation. Be aware that, as part of this, SASC Trust will be given access to information held about you by SASC LLP. This will include information of a confidential nature, which the Trust will hold on the same secure basis.
2. **Assessment:** Your application will be assessed in detail by an expert Grant Assessor and at least one of our Trustees. As part of this assessment, all applications will be scored against our decision-making criteria.
3. **Recommendation:** The Grant Manager will collate the assessment scoring and the due diligence review and make a recommendation to the Trustee Board
4. **Decision:** The Trustee Board makes the final decision on all grants at a formal Board meeting
5. **Feedback:** We provide feedback to all applicants regardless of outcome

Our Timescales

We are committed to moving at pace:

- **Application development:** you will have at least 7 weeks to develop your application from the date we invite you to apply
 - **Grant decisions:** we will make and communicate decisions to you within 8 weeks of the deadline for applications
 - We'll communicate clearly about timescales at each stage
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If Your Application is Successful

Grant Agreement

We'll work with you to finalise a **formal grant agreement** that sets out:

- Grant amount and payment schedule
- Details of the project / purpose of the grant
- Reporting requirements (we keep these light-touch)
- Requirements to notify us of significant changes or safeguarding concerns
- Any conditions around use of funds

Ongoing Relationship

Once you're a grantee, you can expect:

Regular Communication

- Informal check-ins and occasional visits
- Review meetings every six months to discuss progress, challenges, and learning
- Responsive support when you need it

Light-Touch Reporting

- Proportionate written updates that focus on learning and impact
- No lengthy bureaucratic reports
- Flexibility to adapt as circumstances change

Peer Learning

- Opportunities to connect with other grantees
- Sharing insights and challenges in a supportive environment
- Contributing to wider learning about tackling homelessness

Your Responsibilities as a Grantee

- Use grant funds for the agreed purposes
 - Maintain robust safeguarding policies and procedures
 - Report any safeguarding, financial or regulatory incidents or concerns promptly to SASC Trust (whether or not directly linked to Trust-funded activity)
 - Report any serious incidents submitted to the Charity Commission
 - Notify us of any significant organisational changes
 - Provide agreed reports and updates
 - Participate in learning activities where appropriate
 - Acknowledge SASC Trust's support in relevant communications
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Our Commitment to You

As an exemplar funder, we commit to:

- ✓ **Minimising bureaucracy** – keeping processes simple and proportionate
 - ✓ **Providing flexibility** – trusting you to use funds where they're most needed
 - ✓ **Moving at pace** – making timely decisions and keeping you informed
 - ✓ **Building partnership** – working with you as equals, not as "funder and funded"
 - ✓ **Learning together** – recognising that your frontline expertise is invaluable
 - ✓ **Recognising with humility** – understanding that you do the hard work; we simply contribute resources
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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I apply if I'm not currently a SASC LLP investee?

A: For our current funding rounds, we're focusing on specific current and former SASC LLP investees. In future years, our funding universe may broaden over time through recommendations and partnerships.

Q: Do I need to apply for a specific amount?

A: We encourage you to tell us what you need and why. Be realistic about what would make a meaningful difference to your organisation.

Q: Can I apply for core costs or does it need to be for a specific project?

A: We offer flexible funding. If you are a charity, you can apply for salary costs, core costs, specific projects, or a combination – whatever best serves your organisation's needs. If you are not a charity, your funding must be focused on charitable activities and pass the 'public benefit' test

Q: What if my circumstances change during the grant period?

A: We recognise that circumstances change. Please talk to our Grant Manager about any need to vary grant terms. We'll consider variations sympathetically because flexibility is key to effective grant-making.

Q: How detailed does my impact measurement need to be?

A: We want to know how you'll measure progress in a way that's meaningful to you and proportionate to your organisation. We're not looking for academic rigour or complex evaluation frameworks – just honest reflection on what's working and what you're learning.

Q: What happens at the end of the grant period?

A: We'll ask for a final report reflecting on impact and learning and conduct a final review meeting. You may be invited to apply for further funding if appropriate.

Q: What safeguarding information do I need to provide?

A: At application stage, we need confirmation that you have robust safeguarding policies in place. During the grant period, you must report any safeguarding incidents to us promptly, whether or not they relate directly to the work we are funding (we don't need sensitive case details, just notification that an incident has occurred and been appropriately managed).

Ready to Apply?

Step 1: When we contact you, confirm your interest in and eligibility to apply for funding

Step 2: We'll send you our simple template and work with you to develop your application. You will have 8 weeks to develop and submit your application.

Step 3: Submit your application and we'll make and communicate our decision within 12 weeks

We look forward to hearing from you and exploring how we can partner together to tackle homelessness.

For more information, visit www.sasctrust.org.uk or contact our Grant Manager, Ruth Davison, at ruth@sasctrust.org.uk

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