

PORTICUS UK - GRANT FUNDING CRITERIA

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Porticus UK's mission is to have solidarity with the poor and the marginalised, reflecting our Christian responsibility and support for the Roman Catholic Church. This is done through the provision of high quality charity advice and philanthropy services to our donors and partners. We aim to offer a dynamic service, providing both effectiveness and initiative whilst remaining an organisation in-touch with people's needs.

The success of our work is judged, ultimately, by how much long-lasting and tangible impact is made on people's lives; producing changes which ensure the respect of our network partners, beneficiaries and donors.

What type of funding do we offer

- At Porticus UK we are happy to consider requests to fund core or project costs. These may include staff salaries and overheads; however, we will generally not fund buildings or equipment.
- Although our values are based in that Catholic faith, we welcome applications from all organisations whether or not they have a faith basis.
- We understand that a charity's funding priorities are not always specific project costs, and so welcome applications for developing policy, advocacy and research.
- We put particular emphasis on organisations which have a proven model and wish to expand.
- We do occasionally fund small grants of less than £10,000, but most of our grants are between £10,000 and £25,000. We occasionally fund larger projects.
- We will only accept applications from organisations which are either a registered charity in England, Wales or Scotland, or, a registered Community Interest Company.

Exclusions – What we will not fund:

- High profile appeals
- Major capital projects or restoration of buildings
- Grants to individuals
- Endowment appeals
- Overseas projects (including travel)

We ask that applicants read through our categories carefully before applying, as we receive many more requests than we are able to support. If your project does not fall within our programme areas it is highly unlikely to be successful.

There is no deadline for applications as decisions are made periodically throughout the year.

PROGRAMME AREAS

To help us process our applications, we categorize our giving to four specific areas: Strengthening Family Values; Enriching Education; Church Renewal; and Ethics in Practice.

Strengthening Family Relationships

Encouraging and cherishing the family relationship that is so often central to people's lives, is at the centre of what we do. The support we offer aims at strengthening those family relationships that are most vulnerable and strained. We, therefore, look for applications which are focused on:

- Building networks and connections that tackle family isolation, especially where there is disability or illness.
- Offering respite for families with a member who is terminally ill or disabled.
- Encouraging family cohesion through drop-in centres and intensive family support, particularly among families who have been under considerable stress from issues of violence and abuse.
- Tackling isolation of the elderly, especially through intergenerational work.

Enriching Education

We recognise that a well-rounded, holistic education is crucial in allowing a person to shape their future. Our funding, therefore, is aimed at educational projects which deal with the disadvantaged and vulnerable, with a particular interest in Catholic schools and education based on Catholic social teaching. We are particularly interested in projects which focus on:

- Pastoral care in education, and in particular, projects which deal with character building, conflict resolution and values.
- Educational opportunities for groups who have missed out on traditional learning, in particular prisoners and ex-offenders.
- The professional development of teachers.

Transformation through Faith

As the roots of our philanthropy are in the Catholic faith, we are keen to support projects which nourish and develop that faith in a complex world. We look to fund the following particular areas:

- The development of Church and lay leadership capacities
- Projects which encourage ecumenical collaboration
- Organisations and projects which focus on inclusion
- The promotion of exploration and discussion around difficult issues, both within the Christian family and in dialogue with other Faiths.

Ethics in Practice

Porticus UK sees moral formation and ethical decision making as crucially important in today's complex societies. We, therefore, support work guided by Catholic Social principles and directed at the development of the values and virtues of professionals and leaders. Since ethics cannot be considered in isolation, we are particularly interested in interdisciplinary and applied approaches. We will consider applications for:

- Developing courses, case studies and training
- Facilitating constructive public or private debates
- Research projects on the ethical problems encountered in specific professions
- Business ethics and medical ethics
- Initiatives that enhance understandings of Catholic social teaching

If you are considering applying to us, please first check whether your project fits with one of our four programme areas above.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT - HOW WE WILL EVALUATE YOUR APPLICATION

We receive many more applications than we can support, and we examine each to assess the likelihood of it making a difference within your area of work. In your application we will be looking for the following:

- What are the project objectives
- How the objectives will be measured
- Breakdown of the project costs
- What is your long term funding strategy
- Measurable outputs
- Up to date accounts explaining any large reserves or deficits
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Once we receive this information, we will then decide whether your project fits within our programme areas. If it does not fit with our criteria we will notify you within 28 days.

If we wish to proceed with your application it is likely we will either call you to carry out a telephone interview or arrange to visit you and your project to see first hand the work you do.

If after a visit or call we decide not to proceed we will notify you within two weeks. If we decide to proceed with your application it will be presented to the trustees our next grants meeting (meetings are held eight times a year).

Following the grants meeting we will notify you of the trustees decision within two weeks.

CONTACT US

Applications should be sent to:

Porticus UK,
Fourth Floor,
Eagle House,
108-110 Jermyn Street,
London.
SW1Y 6EE

Email: porticusUK@porticus.com

If you have any enquiries, you can get in touch through email, telephone or post:

Tel: 020 7024 3503 (9am - 5pm Monday to Friday)

Fax: 020 7024 3501