

# Housing First Grants Programme

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### Do organisations have to be registered as a charity to apply?

Yes, organisations must be one of the following in order to apply:

- Registered charity
- Registered not-for-profit company

### Can I apply as an individual?

No. We do not fund individuals we only fund organisations.

### How much can I apply for?

You can apply for a grant of between £20,000 to £100,000.

### Where do the funds come from?

The funds have been awarded to Homeless Link by Comic Relief to deliver a grant programme to support current Housing First services in England.

### What types of organisations do you fund?

We will fund frontline organisations who are already delivering Housing First services in England and who meet the following criteria:

- Registered charity
- Registered not-for-profit company
- Operating in England
- Proposed activity is in line with the organisation's charitable mission/purpose (governing document will be reviewed)
- Organisation is delivering Housing First services in England in line with the [principles](#)
- Full accounts (audited or independently examined) are submitted
- Recent management accounts are submitted

### What types of activities do you fund?

Activity that could be funded includes, but is not limited to:

- Specialist posts or development of existing teams' skills/knowledge to extend or improve Housing First for a specific population e.g. young people, women, BAME, LGBTQ, physical care needs
- Transitional support to improve routes into Housing First
- Development of peer mentoring and/or community links
- Development of co-production or other forms of representation with Housing First residents
- New approaches to supporting people in Housing First whose tenancies are at risk
- Systems change influencing e.g. working with statutory services to change how Housing First residents access mental health assessments
- Improved access to health provision, and to social services and mental health assessments

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- Improved access to diverse accommodation options for people coming into Housing First

This is not a definitive list – projects should be responsive to their local context and to the needs of the people who are accessing funded services.

### What will you not fund?

Grant funding must be used for delivering front line services and we are unable to fund the following types of activities:

- New Housing First projects or running costs of existing projects
- Activities of a political or exclusively religious nature
- Goods or services that you have a statutory duty to provide
- Gifts to individuals and promotional items
- Overseas travel
- Interest payments on loans
- Building purchase
- Work that has already taken place
- Work outside England
- Academic research

### Do I need to have match funding or co-funding?

No, but you are encouraged to seek other sources of funding where this will support your project or sustainability.

### When do any successful awards need to be spent?

All successful awards must be spent by November 2021 *NB: the grants will be paid 6 monthly instalments in advance.*

### Who can I contact if I have an enquiry?

We strongly advise all applicants to read our application guidance notes and read answers to all of our FAQs before submitting your enquiry.

If you have an enquiry that is not covered in our guidance materials you can send your enquiry to [fund@homelesslink.org.uk](mailto:fund@homelesslink.org.uk) Please insert 'Housing First Fund enquiry' as your email subject and provide your organisation and contact name.

If you wish to speak to someone on the phone, please leave your contact name and number and we will arrange a call back. We aim to get back to all enquiries within 5 working days.

### When can I apply?

Stage 1 will open for applications at midday on Friday 28th June 2019. The final stage 1 application deadline is Wednesday 14th August at 5pm. If successful at stage 1 you will be sent a link to access the stage 2 application form. The stage 2 application deadline is 5pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

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### **How can I check whether my organisation is eligible for funding?**

Please read the 'who can apply?' section on our website and the application guidance.

### **How can I check whether my proposal is eligible for funding?**

Please read the 'what we will fund' and 'what we don't fund' sections on our guidance and website which provides details on eligibility.

### **Can I apply in partnership with another organisation and if so, what are the guidelines?**

Yes, you can apply in partnership with another organisation.

However one of the organisations must apply as the lead organisation and if successful the grant will only be made to the lead organisation. It is essential that all partner organisations receiving funding also meet the eligibility criteria.

Please note that the main applicant will be responsible for the grant, including any portion which is forwarded to the other partners. They will need to ensure, therefore, that they spend the money appropriately within the conditions of the offer and that they can report on what was achieved at by both partners when monitoring is due.

### **Will successful applicants receive any support as part of the award?**

Yes. We will be providing grantees with support to share learning and opportunities for networking.

### **Will you be looking at what other activities are taking place in applicants' areas as part of the assessment process?**

Yes. If we feel that you will be duplicating, or overlapping, the work of another project, then we will look at this as part of the assessment. In some cases we may encourage local organisations delivering similar services in the same area to explore opportunities for submitting partnership bids. We encourage applicants to consider local partnerships where possible.

### **How will funding decisions be made?**

Each applicant is assessed on its own merit according to the criteria published in the application guidance.

The Grants Panel then seek to make awards that meet the overall aims of the programme at stage 2.

### **What if my application is unsuccessful?**

If your application is unsuccessful, we will write to you to notify you of the outcome. We will not provide detailed feedback but can provide some brief feedback on the key reasons your application was unsuccessful. You are not able to appeal our decision, but if you have a complaint about how your application has been dealt with, please contact us at [fund@homelesslink.org.uk](mailto:fund@homelesslink.org.uk) 'Housing First Fund complaint.'



## What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness agencies and the wider housing with health, care and support sector. We work to improve services through evidence and learning, and to promote policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it'

## Let's end homelessness together

Homeless Link  
Minorities House, 2-5 Minorities  
London EC3N 1BJ

020 7840 4430

[www.homeless.org.uk](http://www.homeless.org.uk)

Twitter: @Homelesslink

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/homelesslink](http://www.facebook.com/homelesslink)

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