

SECKFORD SPRINGBOARD BUILDING YOUNG LIVES

Grant making programme for Individuals Guidance for Applicants

The Seckford Foundation provides small grants to individuals which are within the criteria of its grant making programme. The criteria aim to support:

- People aged 25 and under to enable access to education, employment and training.
- People aged over 65 to enable access to facilities and services and to promote independent living and life-long learning.

The Foundation only gives small grants. It is rare for us to award a grant to an individual that is greater than £500.

Our funds are released when all other funds for the project have been found. It is unlikely we would fund an application where our contribution is a small part of a project. We prefer to make things happen and this is more easily achieved if we are one of the majority funders.

We have a preference for projects which support rural communities and individuals within rural communities in Suffolk. Therefore, we do not generally fund projects that would be focused on beneficiaries in Ipswich, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds or Haverhill.

What we will fund in detail:

- Individuals aged 25 and under or 65 and over, and living in Suffolk.
- Support to access education or training, e.g. books, tools, childcare (where there is no statutory obligation to fund).
- Support to access employment, e.g. interview costs such as clothing, application costs, e.g. help with preparing a CV or completing an application form, course costs required to access an employment opportunity where the skill is essential and the lack of it is holding back the applicant.
- Assistance to help access volunteering opportunities which will lead to improved chances of employment, or skills development, or maintain independence and social contact.

- Interventions that will raise self-esteem and self-confidence to enable participation in education, employment, training or activities aimed at promoting independence and social inclusion.
- Transport costs to an activity which achieves one or more of our aims e.g. life-long learning, promoting independent living.
- Activities which engage the young and older person which help them cope with the challenges they face at their particular stage of life which meets our criteria.

Funding for School Trips

We recognise that school trips enhance education in a variety of ways, and offer many other benefits in terms of learning independence, gaining confidence etc. We are, however, only able to support those applicants which we deem to have the most need. If applying for funding towards school trips, either for groups or individuals, please include the following information in your application:

- How many pupils participating in the trip are pupil premium funded, and how much pupil premium funding is being allocated to the trip to enable them to attend;
- How many pupils attending are from service families, and how much service premium funding is being allocated to the trip to enable them to attend;
- How much voluntary contribution you are expecting to receive towards the trip from pupil's parents / carers;
- How much of your school's own resources are being allocated to the trip to enable pupils to attend.

This information will need to be provided, even if applying for individual pupils.

What we will not fund in detail:

- Funding applications for something that has already taken place
- Overseas project funding/funding for gap years
- Work which statutory bodies have a duty to fund
- Refurbishment or adaptation of properties/building projects
- Repayment of loans/budget shortfalls/debt repayments
- Tuition fees (e.g. ballet schools)
- Repeat funding within 12 months
- Medical treatment
- Where the individual lives outside Suffolk
- Postgraduate studies

How to apply

Applications for funding should be by letter. Initial contact can be made by telephone to ascertain whether an application would fall within our criteria.

The letter should clearly state:

- the age of the person for whom the funds are intended;
- where they live;
- what the funds are for;
- why they can't fund it themselves.

It helps a speedy decision if evidence of need is attached. Evidence of need can be proof of being in receipt of benefits, a disability or other circumstances such as a young person leaving care or an older person who is isolated either physically or socially.

The Foundation welcomes enquiries and will do its best to help you shape your application so it falls within our criteria.

In most cases a decision can be made within three weeks of the application being received. For larger applications we may need to present the application to the committee which oversees our grant giving. If this is the case we will let you know when that is likely to be to help you plan.

When we write to you with our decision we will tell you if there are any conditions you need to meet before we release our funds.

Evaluation

To help us understand the effect our grant giving is having we ask everyone to let us know:

- Confirmation of what our grant funded and if appropriate for how long
- Did it achieve what you thought it would?
- Where there any unexpected achievements?
- What were the main achievements or differences the grant made?
- We are also keen to know what you might have learned and what you might do differently with the benefit of hindsight.

Acknowledgement

The Foundation likes to publicise its work to encourage others to come forward. We understand that in some cases the grant can be for sensitive work. We would not expect to publicise grants to individuals unless the person thought it would help them as well as us. We have expert help to guide the press process to avoid unwanted attention. The Foundation would prefer that it is not mentioned in any press release an individual or organisation is planning to make about our grant without our consent.

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