

Sovereign Health Care Community Programme Guidelines for Applicants

Sovereign Health Care is proud of its long history of charitable giving, which is made possible because we are a not for profit business, have no shareholders and subject to having sufficient capital funds available, actively choose to donate between 5% and 10% of our annual turnover to community or charitable initiatives with a health and wellbeing focus.

We have always been based in Bradford, a city rich in history and culture but one with areas of serious deprivation and structural health inequalities, as highlighted in national public health reports over many years.

We always try to support charities and voluntary groups who are tackling problems, improving the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people and providing opportunities and facilities that can transform the quality of life for all of us, or as we like to describe it, 'positively touching people's lives. In the last 12 years, we've donated £7.9 million to health and wellbeing good causes.

We do receive more applications than we are able to fund. The members often have to make difficult decisions and may have to turn down appeals for good causes, even those that fully meet the organisation's priorities. Grants are usually quite modest – a few thousand pounds. Large medical research projects where a contribution would not be significant are unlikely to be funded.

Eligibility

We will fund health and wellbeing related work undertaken by:

- Registered Charities
- Organisations formed for charitable purposes with a constitution

Financial Eligibility

- Organisations with income over £100 million per year and large reserves, are not our target audience due to our relatively low funding levels and our own considerably smaller resources.
- We will consider exceptions to this where it is evidenced that the funding is given directly to dedicated local provisions, but these applications will not form our first priority.

Area of benefit

- We are prepared to consider applications from local charities, voluntary organisations and community groups within Yorkshire, with a strong bias towards Bradford, Leeds and West Yorkshire.
- Applications for work outside the Yorkshire area will not be supported.
- We are prepared to consider applications from national charities where there is a clear benefit to people in the Bradford/West Yorkshire area, preferably the delivery of services locally.
- We do not normally provide support for individuals.

Priorities

1. In terms of specific diseases and conditions, priority is given to those that are particularly prevalent in Bradford, especially:
 - Heart disease
 - Chest/lung disease
 - Cancer: lung cancer, breast cancer; bowel cancer; prostate cancer; and oral cancer.
 - Stroke
 - Diabetes

This includes providing support and preventing ill health in hospitals and hospices.

2. Funding for initiatives and organisations that support and promote healthy lifestyles.
3. Education and training programmes where it impacts one of the other priority areas.
4. Work to tackle wider deprivation and disadvantage, including:
 - Poverty
 - Disability
 - Children's health
 - Mental health
 - Homelessness

5. Match funding\Event support

We will also consider match funding and event support for small amounts subject to strict criteria and targeted charities being among our priority areas. Organisations must be able to demonstrate:

- Proven fund-raising potential in the event\activity
- Locally based in our geographic area i.e. Yorkshire
- Targeted amount to be raised is at least 300% of the financial support requested
- Targeted charity activities have a clear link to our community fund priorities

Match funding requests undergo a two-part approval process and can take 8 to 10 weeks to approve. Larger charities/organisations arranging events are unlikely to be supported for match funding/event support.

Making an application

- We are keen not to burden the organisations we support with too much paper work and therefore there is no formal application form. However, we do need to know and understand your organisation including your financial information.
- If you are a larger charity, we can access your financial information via the Charity Commission website but for smaller organisations we will need a copy of your most recent accounts or bank statement.
- In order to operate efficiently, we will pay successful grantees by electronic bank transfer and we therefore require your bank details on headed paper, by email or letter, when you submit an application.
- In order to progress an application, we want to know what you do, what you want the money for, how much it is going to cost and how you will know that the money has made a difference.

- Facts and figures are important – how many people will be helped, for instance. Please write to us with the appropriate information and we will ask for additional information if we feel it is necessary; in these cases, we'll assume that you don't want to proceed with the application if we haven't heard back from you within six weeks.
- Members meet six times a year. From receiving an application to the applicant receiving a cheque (or not) usually takes about two or three months. In the case of disasters and emergencies we may be able to act much more quickly. All applicants are notified about the outcome of their request.
- If an appeal is made to a known individual within Sovereign, that person will have to declare an interest in the application and will be unable to play any part in the discussion.
- If you have received funding from us for three consecutive years, you are unlikely to be supported without a break. We will prioritise applications from organisations who have not previously received our support.

To save paper, we request that applications are emailed to: community@sovereignhealthcare.co.uk

Or, in exceptional circumstances, you can post applications to:

Sovereign Health Care Community Programme
Royal Standard House
26 Manningham Lane
Bradford
BD1 3DN

Frequently asked questions

- Q. Do you fund individuals?**
Not usually, although we are happy to receive applications from **organisations** that provide support to individuals. For instance, a grant was made to a charity for bursaries to help West Yorkshire people with disabilities pay for an activity holiday.
- Q. Do you provide sponsorship?**
We do not sponsor individual people, nor do we usually enter into sponsorship agreements with charities.
- Q. If we've had a grant from you in the past, how long before we can apply again?**
Members would expect the organisation to wait a year before applying again.
- Q. If our application has been turned down, can we apply again?**
There is nothing to stop you. However, if you weren't a high priority the first time around, you probably won't be the next time. If you think you really are the kind of organisation that the we are interested in supporting, you could email (community@sovereignhealthcare.co.uk) requesting feedback on your failed application.
- Q. Should we send our latest annual report and accounts with our application?**
We will look at the copy of your latest report and accounts if it is available on the Charity Commission's website. **If it's not available (you're a small charity or not a registered charity at all), then we need a copy of either your latest set of accounts or most recent bank statement. We also require information about the work or activity you want the funding for.**
- Q. Can we apply to other funders at the same time and use you as a match funder? Yes.**
We are usually happy to be one of a number of funders supporting a project. If you've asked for funding for something very specific and you end up with too much money, just get in touch and explain. There may be some other way of using the grant from us.