

The Henry Smith Charity

founded in 1628

Strategic Grants Housing First Programme

Funding Guidelines

The Henry Smith Charity - Housing First Programme

This document provides an overview of The Henry Smith Charity's Housing First Programme. This is a new programme aimed at helping people experiencing homelessness who have multiple and complex needs. We want to support organisations delivering Housing First services, a model which has been shown to have long term positive impact working with this group.

We have provided some background to The Henry Smith Charity and the Housing First approach as well as setting out the funding available, eligibility criteria and outlining the application process. We have consulted with a variety of stakeholders in the development of this programme including organisations currently delivering services.

The Henry Smith Charity

The Henry Smith Charity is a large independent grant making trust. We distribute over £30m of grants per year to organisations that work with people to reduce social and economic disadvantage. Most of our grants are made through our two main grant programmes: Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities. These are responsive programmes supporting organisations delivering services directly to beneficiaries. The criteria for both these programmes can be found on our website.

<https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/explore-our-grants-and-apply/>

Under the Improving Lives programme we fund a range of services working with those who have experienced homelessness. If your organisation is not eligible for this programme, you may be eligible for the Improving Lives programme and we would encourage you to read our programme guidelines. A list of our current grants in this area can be found on our website.

https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/recently-awarded-grants/?_sf_s=Homelessness

Programme Overview

The Housing First Programme provides grants for small to medium sized charities (up to £5m annual income) to deliver high quality Housing First services in high need areas.

We are seeking expressions of interest from established Housing First providers to increase provision and enable services to become more sustainable and effective. We are also open to applications from organisations planning to deliver a Housing First service for the first time.

The key objectives of the programme are:

- To increase the number of people with multiple and complex needs supported through Housing First
- To increase the number of small to medium sized charities providing Housing First
- To enable existing Housing First providers to increase provision
- To support grantees to develop practice and share learning and experiences

What is Housing First?

Housing First offers stable, affordable housing to those experiencing homelessness. Intensive person-centred support is also provided to enable people to keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness.

Services help people with significant multiple and enduring needs; those for whom other services have failed and homelessness is a long-term enduring issue.

Housing First supports people by recognising and emphasising their strengths and capacity for positive change. Individuals do not need to prove they are ready for independent housing, or progress through a series of accommodation and treatment services. There are no conditions placed on them other than a willingness to maintain a tenancy agreement, and Housing First is designed to provide long-term, open-ended support for their on-going needs.

Housing First is more intensive than traditional tenancy support models. Traditional support workers may have caseloads of 20-40 people, whereas Housing First workers will support a caseload of 5-7 people. Smaller caseloads enable more intensive, flexible and personalised support for people who have not been successfully engaged and supported by other housing and support services due to the complexity of their needs.

There is a wealth of evidence that Housing First works. Having a place to call home leads to improved mental health and physical wellbeing, increased contact with family, and involvement with the local community. Over time, those housed by Housing First require less support and in some cases, may no longer require support.

What you can apply for

- In total we have **£1.4m of grant funding available**.
- Applicants can apply for grants of **between £200,000 and £400,000**.
- The programme will provide funding for **up to four years** (we would expect grantees to request funding over three or four years unless there is a clear and convincing rationale for short term funding).
- **Grants will be made to individual organisations**. Grant holders will have responsibility for service delivery and reporting on the grant. However, we recognise that partnership working is crucial for successful Housing First delivery and we will expect providers to have identified how they will link with local statutory and voluntary partners for delivery and sustainability.
- We are keen to receive applications from **both organisations currently delivering Housing First services and those setting up new services**. As such funding is flexible - we would like you to tell us what you need to provide a high-quality service.
(As a guide we would expect grants to cover: staffing and on costs for support provision, reasonable overheads and costs associated with setting up a service, personalised budgets and other supports to enable tenancies to be maintained.)
- We encourage organisations to apply for the amount and length of funding that they need, and that makes sense in the context of the application. (We will not consider making a grant that is equivalent to more than 50% of the current annual running costs of an organisation.)

Who can apply for a grant?

- Organisations must have an annual income of between £100K and £5m.
- Organisations must be working in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- We want to fund established organisations (by this we mean at least 18 months old and have published their first set of annual accounts) that have a track record. We are looking for applicants that have the necessary expertise and are well placed to deliver this work.
- We primarily fund registered charities but are willing to make grants to other types of not for profit organisations, such as Community Interest Companies (CICs) or constituted community groups.
- We are looking for organisations that are willing to engage with us as a funder and the other organisations funded through this programme to share knowledge and learning about best practice.

Eligibility criteria

Through this programme we will only fund organisations currently delivering (or planning to deliver) Housing First services. The key criteria for this programme are that services will be delivered in line with the Housing First Principles, which are:

- People have a right to a home
- Flexible support is provided for as long as is needed
- Housing and support are separated
- Individuals have choice and control
- An active engagement approach is used
- The service is based on people's strengths, goals and aspirations
- A harm reduction approach is used

A Housing First England document explaining the Housing First principles in more detail can be found on our website

We will also be looking to ensure organisations have (or are able to develop) the processes to support a Housing First service including:

- A team to implement the programme.
- Appropriate methods to identify participants for the programme.
- Appropriate plans to help participants to secure a home.
- Support for programme participants (including tackling social isolation, loneliness and sense of purpose).
- Connecting people with mainstream and specialist health and social care provision as required.
- Gathering data and supporting evaluation of the programme.
- Working collaboratively with Local Authorities and other statutory agencies to explore and develop plans for mainstreaming Housing First.

Expression of interest

If your work meets the aims and objectives of the Housing First Programme then we would encourage you to submit an expression of interest via email to HFgrants@henrysmithcharity.org.uk. Expressions of interest should be no longer than three sides of A4 and cover:

1. Why your organisation is well placed to deliver this work

We are looking for:

- *A track record working with this client group*
 - *Organisations applying to run a Housing First service for the first time must demonstrate they have done the groundwork required for successful service delivery and are well placed to get a service up and running*
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2. A brief outline of why a Housing First service is needed in your area

3. An outline of the activities planned

We are looking for:

- *Realistic development and delivery plans*
 - *Strong partnerships*
 - *We would like to understand how many people you expect to work with as a result of our funding (we would expect services to have a unit cost in the region of £8,000 per year for each participant including direct support costs, furnishing tenancies, and overheads)*
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4. How you will ensure work is in line with the Housing First principles

We are looking for:

- *Services that have fidelity to the Housing First principles*
 - *An ability to take part in a shared process of learning and evaluation*
 - *Embedding the voice of people with an experience of homelessness within work*
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5. A headline budget and timeframe for the project

We are looking for:

- *A clear rationale for the level of support you are requesting*
- *Appropriate resourcing and finances*
- *Organisations that can deliver services within six months of being awarded a grant*

Alongside your expression of interest, please include your organisation name, address, postcode, name of the main contact, the main contact's email address and telephone number and charity (or company) number.

Bear in mind that providing concise information will be of benefit at this stage. We may not be familiar with either your organisation or the context within which you work, so it is useful for you to convey information clearly to give us a full understanding of your proposal.

Expressions of interest will be considered on their individual merit, based on their alignment with the Housing First Programme objectives.

Application process

- The deadline for expressions of interest is **4 November 2019**.
- Shortlisted applicants will be asked to complete a more detailed application and will be visited by a member of the Henry Smith team.
- We cannot fund all expressions of interest that meet the criteria. Expressions of interest will be considered on their individual merit against the aims of the programme and the criteria above.
- Final decisions will be made by March 2020. All grant holders will be expected to begin service delivery with six months of this date.
- If you would like to discuss an application with us in more detail please contact:
HFgrants@henrysmithcharity.org.uk
- Expressions of interest should be emailed to **HFgrants@henrysmithcharity.org.uk**

Data protection

When you submit your Expression Of Interest (EOI) to us, please do not include any personal data. In sending your EOI, you are confirming you are happy for your data to be stored and shared in line with the below statements.

All personal data will be dealt with in line with our current Data Protection Policies.

Collaborating with other Grant Makers

We reserve the right to disclose non-personal information, regarding your application, activities and organisation, with other grant makers unless you expressly request otherwise. No personal data will be shared with other grant makers for this purpose.

Detection of fraud

We reserve the right to share personal information to detect and prevent fraud for which we do not require your consent. Knowingly providing false information will invalidate any application or grant.

Please view our privacy policy on our website for more information.