



Ministry  
of Defence



## Covenant Fund 2017/18

### Armed Forces Covent – Local Grants

**Grants up to £20,000 for Community Integration and Local Service Delivery**

#### Summary guidance

**Please note: This summary guidance is for information only – detailed guidance on how to apply will be issued when the programme reopens for applications in mid February 2017.**

## **The Covenant Fund: Background**

The Armed Forces Covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the government and the armed forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to current and former members of the armed forces and their families, and it sets out how they should expect to be treated.

The Covenant Fund has £10 million each year to support the Armed Forces Covenant by funding projects which address specific priorities.

## **What we mean by Community Integration and Delivery of Local Services**

Under this priority we will fund projects that respond to the local needs of the Armed Forces Community and improve recognition of the Armed Forces Covenant, and that:

- help integrate Armed Forces and civilian communities across the UK, and/or
- deliver valuable local services to the armed forces community.

### **Community Integration**

Projects must create strong local links between the Armed Forces community (i.e. current and former members of their armed forces and their families) and civilian communities; and be able to clearly demonstrate how they will have impact in overcoming barriers to better integration; and improving perceptions, attitudes and understanding.

We want to see projects which are rooted in their communities and which have grown out of a specific local need. It is important too that the project is not just the Armed Forces delivering something for the civilian community or vice-versa. For the project to be truly effective in achieving community integration there should be shared development, delivery and benefits for both communities.

### **Delivery of local services**

Under this priority we will fund local projects which offer financial, housing, mental and physical health, employability or social support for serving armed forces personnel, veterans, and their families. Projects must be well connected, both to their beneficiaries and to other relevant organisations, and be able to demonstrate how the services they provide will be well-publicised, accessible and joined up.

### **All applications**

This is not a general fund for organisations to support their core activities simply by adding members of the armed forces community to their beneficiary group in order to apply for funding. Applicants are expected to have experience and a track record of working with the Armed Forces Community, as well as a real understanding of the issues facing the Armed Forces Community.

All applicants should work closely with their Local Covenant Partnerships to ensure that their project is properly connected locally, responds to recognised need and does not duplicate other provision. See how you can do this below.

### **The key criteria**

We'll assess whether your project fits with what the Covenant Fund is all about. The main criteria for small grants are:

- ✓ How well the project addresses the priority and how it will meet the specific requirements of that priority
- ✓ Evidence of the need for the project

- ✓ Engagement, partnership working and collaboration
- ✓ How well the project is likely to be delivered
- ✓ To what extent the project represents value for money
- ✓ To what extent we can have confidence that the project will have lasting impact, delivering changes that last beyond the funding period

Please note also that:

- we cannot fund a service that is or should be provided by others (for example, by Government Departments or local authorities)
- projects must not generate a profit, top-up an existing Grant-in-Aid or raise funds for the charitable sector
- MOD can only provide one off funding so where there is an ongoing cost – such as maintenance or staff costs, we will look for clear and realistic plans for future funding

## **Local Covenant Partnerships**

Local Covenant Partnerships are formed of the public, charitable, voluntary and business sectors and representatives from the armed forces for each area of England, Scotland and Wales, and are administered by local authorities. Your local authority may have an ‘Armed Forces Champion’ or someone in a similar role who should be your first point of contact.

We work with Local Covenant Partnerships to ensure that the projects we fund are well-connected and needed locally, and do not duplicate other provision. This is vitally important to us.

We strongly recommend that all applicants in England, Scotland and Wales, even those that already have existing working relationships with their Local Covenant Partnership, approach the Partnership for the area in which the project is to be delivered in good time to get their input into your plans. The benefit of this is that you will be able to take on board their thoughts about your proposal before you finalise your application to us. It may be that your Partnership suggests you delay your application and they will be able to help you develop your project, or they may be able to suggest an alternative source of funding that will be more appropriate for your project.

You could send your draft application form to your local LCP contact, or perhaps send an email saying who your organisation is, what you want to do; who will benefit and who you are working with. Or, you could offer to talk to them on the phone about your project. They are not assessing your project – so you won’t necessarily need to tell them all the details, have the budget figures ready or have prepared all the answers to the questions on the application form.

If you do not already know your local Covenant partnership and cannot find the right contact by going through your local authority by phone or on their website, you can find further guidance below: **Finding your local Covenant partnership**.

If your project works across more than one partnership, you should approach the partnership in which the majority of the work will take place.

The Local Partnerships contribute to our assessment process, so will get to see your application later, although the final decisions about funding are made by our National Panel, who will be looking at proposals from across the UK.

## **Finding your Local Covenant Partnership**

If you do not already know your Local Covenant Partnership and cannot find the right contact by going through your local authority, please send an email to your relevant area (below) and we will get in touch with you to help.

Scotland

[Covenant-GrantFund-Scotland@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-Scotland@mod.uk)

Wales

[Covenant-GrantFund-Wales@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-Wales@mod.uk)

England:

East [Covenant-GrantFund-East@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-East@mod.uk)

London [Covenant-GrantFund-London@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-London@mod.uk)

North East [Covenant-GrantFund-NorthEast@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-NorthEast@mod.uk)

North West [Covenant-GrantFund-NorthWest@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-NorthWest@mod.uk)

South East [Covenant-GrantFund-SouthEast@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-SouthEast@mod.uk)

South West [Covenant-GrantFund-SouthWest@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-SouthWest@mod.uk)

West Midlands [Covenant-GrantFund-WestMids@mod.uk](mailto:Covenant-GrantFund-WestMids@mod.uk)

If you are not sure which region you are in, please check the map on our guidance page.

***Northern Ireland and overseas applicants do need not to get any partnership support***

## **Regional and Devolved Administrations**

In your application we will also ask you which **Regional or Devolved Administration** area your project is based in. This helps us to understand demand across the country and who to contact to make sure we get regional input to our assessment process. If you are not sure which area you are in please see the map on our website which also gives the name of the Brigade HQ for each region.

The RDA areas are:

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
  
- East
- London
- North East
- North West
- South East
- South West
- West Midlands

If you are applying from Overseas you will need to indicate this on the form.

## **Who can apply?**

The application must be from either

- a registered charity
- a local authority
- a school
- a Community Interest Company or
- an armed forces unit with a UIN.

This organisation will be the accountable body for the grant.

We will be asking for evidence of real engagement and partnership working - in the case of a non armed forces charity or statutory body - with either an armed forces charity or an armed forces unit.

## **Who cannot apply?**

- Individuals cannot apply and cannot be a partner organisation.
- Unincorporated organisations which are *not* registered as charities cannot apply. If they have been properly constituted under an adopted governing document and have been operating under that governing document for at least three years then they can be a partner organisation.
- Partnerships and social enterprise that are not registered charities or Community Interest Companies cannot apply but they can work as a partner with an eligible lead applicant.

## **What can you apply for?**

Under Priority 4, we will make awards of up to £20,000. We can pay for most of the things you'll need for your project whether it's people's time, buying or hiring equipment, or minor improvements to land or buildings, although it is highly unlikely that we will fund projects with budgets that are dominated by staff costs or capital costs, such as minibuses.

You can find further information about eligible costs in the Frequently Asked Questions on our website

## **How to apply**

There is a single stage application process for organisations applying to this programme. Applications must be submitted online. When we reopen for applications there will be a link to the application portal on our website.