



**THE
KEARNS
FOUNDATION**

The Kearns Foundation

Small Grants Criteria

2026

Making a positive contribution to personal development for community benefit.

The Kearns Foundation was established in 2007 as a charitable trust to encourage and support activity, and opportunities, for young people, and adult volunteers, to make positive contributions to both their personal development, and to their local, national and international communities.

The Small Grants process requires an on-line application and will not respond to generic appeals, or applications outside of its targeted audience. Assistance is available to those unable to complete an on-line application on request.

Who can apply?

- Community organisations, whose governing body is voluntary in its nature, with an agreed constitution, or set of membership rules, and an annual income of less than £100,000 in its latest published accounts.
- Individual young people (11-21 years) undertaking activities that contribute to their personal development for wider community benefit
- Adults (aged 21+) in membership of a qualifying community organisation, undertaking training or skills development activities that contribute to their personal development for wider community benefit

What sort of things will the Kearns Foundation consider funding?

The Trustees retain the right to consider each application on its own merits but examples of projects that the Foundation may support include:

- A young person, or adult volunteer, requiring financial assistance to access a training, or development course, to learn skills that could be passed on to others in the community. This might include supporting community youth work, community arts, or developing community leadership.
- A community organisation that needs help with recruiting and training volunteers, committee members, fundraising or marketing.
- A young person, or adult volunteer, needing assistance to access an international exchange, or study visit, that promotes co-operation, builds personal development and community capacity.

Past grants have been made to support the following:

- Supporting a young kart racer with safety equipment to develop his racing career

- Supporting young people in Girlguiding to attend international leadership exchange projects in Scotland and Canada and an adult volunteer to support her group in Switzerland
- Supporting young people in Scouting to develop a community project in Africa
- Supporting disadvantaged families to enable young people to attend youth camps
- Supporting a volunteer youth worker to take a Minibus driving test to take young people on a residential experience
- Supporting a disability charity with the cost of venue hire for volunteer training
- Supporting an advice charity to expand its digital services to reach more young people

How much is available?

- Grants are normally awarded of amounts between £50 and £250 per project depending on the funds available at that time.
- Funding for the small grants programme comes from fundraising events hosted by the Foundation so the budgets available will vary from time to time.

In line with its original aims, priority will be given to:

- projects supporting young people and adult volunteers living in Norfolk;
- projects that have a direct benefit of attracting young people and adult volunteers to serving their local communities;
- projects that provide young people and adult volunteers with new skills, personal development and new experiences;
- projects which clearly demonstrate measurable outcomes and clear benefits to the beneficiaries.

What sort of things would the Kearns Foundation not normally fund?

- Buildings or buildings' maintenance costs
- Endowments or generic appeals
- General running costs

How will applications be considered?

Applications must be submitted via www.kearnsfoundation.org.uk

Grant applications will normally be considered by the Trustees at Board meetings four times a year, although trustees reserve the right to consider applications at any time.