

abrdn Charitable Foundation

Regional Giving – Funding Guide – 2024–2025

A Scottish registered charity (SC042597)

abrdn Charitable Foundation Overview:

Through the abrdn Charitable Foundation (aCF), we direct funding to charities around the globe. We aim to create fair and impactful charity partnerships which align to our strategy and engage colleagues to use their skills to benefit society.

We focus our strategy through the theme of 'Tomorrow's Generation', which means engaging young people between the ages of 16–25. This is then distilled through two main categories: 'People' and 'Planet'. Under 'People,' our aim is to help to break down barriers to education, employment, and financial wellness, with a key focus on Social Mobility. Under 'Planet,' we are looking to work with organisations who are protecting nature and addressing the impacts of climate change. Through our giving strategy we are making significant social and environmental impacts within local communities and across the globe. We recognise that charitable giving is a key part of our overall sustainability strategy, and Regional Giving is one of the ways we seek to make a difference in the areas we operate in around the world.

Regional Giving Overview

Funding for Regional Giving is managed by colleague-led forums across our regions (UK, Americas, EMEA and APAC). The regions' budget is split into two pots, Partnerships and Small Grants:

Partnerships

Each region selects a theme linked to our giving strategy and nominates local charities aligned to this. Proposed partners are then put to a colleague vote and the successful charity partner receives a 2-year grant of up to £50K per annum (or local currency equivalent).

Small Grants

Each region has funding to allocate to local causes not linked to the aCF core strategy, such as foodbanks or hospices. Funding for these smaller grants can be between £3–5k (or local currency equivalent). The focus of this fund is to support abrdn colleagues to get behind their local communities and to feel empowered to get involved.

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Frequently Asked Questions:

The following section is intended to provide potential applicants to the Regional Giving fund answers to frequent questions and to help organisations decide how best to prepare their application. It is aligned to our approach to strive to be an equitable and thoughtful grant maker.

Question	Regional Partnership	Small Grants
Who can apply?	Invited registered charities that align with our values and stated mission and that engage young people aged 16–25 will typically be asked to apply by colleagues in each region. Colleague forums will agree on their chosen theme every two years and then research organisations within the region that align to this, which can take place in a number of ways – colleague engagement, external research and through previous applications.	Local charities and not for profit community groups can contact the regional team through the online application form to request a small grant. Applications are then presented to the regional Forums to consider on a quarterly basis.
How much can we apply for?	Up to £50k (or local currency equivalent) is given to the regions elected partner each year depending on the regions allocated budget. These funds should be in respect of a specific project in that area which aligns with the aCF's core vision and mission. Ideally the aCF is seeking partnerships that engage colleagues and have a meaningful impact on the local community.	Registered charities and not for profit community led organisations can apply for small grants of up to £5k using our online application form.
Can our project last multiple years?	Yes. We are looking to support projects that would typically be delivered over a two-year active partnership. Impact measurement is critical to the aCF's ability to monitor and understand the social impact that has been achieved. Monitoring throughout the project and meetings with the local team throughout the project are required. If possible, representatives of the aCF in each region will visit the project in location to learn more about the work and gain further insight regarding its' impact.	These grants are unrestricted and can be used for smaller short-term projects.
What is the application process?	In addition to aCF's targeted outreach to potential partners, there is an open application process. Interested organisations are encouraged to contact the aCF team to confirm eligibility. All eligible applicants are requested to complete a thorough expression of interest (EOI) form that is issued by the aCF team to potential partners. This has been designed to capture the necessary information to understand more about your organisation and the project, without placing undue pressure on the finite resources of organisations.	Organisations can register their interest for a small grant using our online application form which will be shared directly with the aCF team, who will then collate and share with the relevant region's forum for consideration on a quarterly basis.
What is the deadline for applications?	The window for recruiting new regional partners is open from June until September every two years. The next window is open between June and September 2024. Charities will be invited to apply who align to the regions focus area within our strategy for that partnership period. There are distinct application windows for each theme and EOIs will only be accepted for the window that is currently open.	The window for small grant applications is open all year round, grant applications will be presented to the regional forums at the first available quarterly meeting following receipt of the application.

Question	Regional Partnership	Small Grants
When will we receive a decision?	All applications will be reviewed and scored by the regional team using an established scoring matrix. Successful applicants will be informed in a timely manner and the timescale will be clearly communicated on receipt of an application. Each region will typically make one grant per year to their chosen charity partner following a colleague vote (these partnerships run for a 2-year period).	Successful applications will receive confirmation within 3 months of their application being received and funding will be released within 10 days of the approval.
Are any organisations restricted from applying?	Yes. The aCF does not fund political organisations and organisations that promote a single religious faith. We are also not able to fund for profit companies or individuals.	
We are not a registered charity; can we still apply?	No. Regional Partnerships are only open to invited charities that meet the required threshold and are registered with the Charity Commission in the UK or equivalent charity regulator in that region.	Yes. Registered charities and not for profit organisations are welcome to apply for our small grants programme.
Can we apply for funding towards capital developments?	Yes. Regional Partnerships are eligible for funding of capital projects, such as a new build, if it aligns with the mission and aims of the aCF.	No. The small grants portion of the fund is not positioned to fund capital, such as the build of a new facility or building linked to your social mission.
Can we apply for funding for research?	Yes. The aCF would consider discreet research projects that align to our mission and enable the applying charity to uncover new insights that will significantly extend or enhance your field of activity.	
If we have applied or been funded by the aCF before, can we apply again?	Yes. Charities who have applied and have been unsuccessful are welcome to apply again. Special consideration will be given to eligible charities that have been funded through the Innovation Fund in a previous period.	
If we are not successful, will we receive feedback on our application?	Yes. The regional team will provide feedback on the application. This is in line with our efforts to be an equitable and thoughtful funder.	No. Unfortunately due to the volume of applications received we are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.
Can employees of abrdn recommend charities?	Yes. We encourage colleagues from within abrdn to share the details of charities where they have a personal knowledge or connection. These applications will be considered alongside other charities identified by the regional team.	
Are joint applications between organisations allowed?	Yes. We welcome collaboration and wish to help foster joint working within the charity sector in the UK and overseas. One charity will need to be the lead applicant and any funding can be allocated as required to successfully complete the project.	
Will the project be monitored and what feedback will the charity be asked to share?	Yes. The aCF uses a monitoring and evaluation form that has been developed using expert external resource. It is intended to provide a straightforward platform to enable the successful charity to capture the outcomes and impact of the project in a format without putting additional pressure on finite resources.	No. Our small grants tend to be unrestricted and for smaller discreet projects. We do not ask for specific monitoring and evaluation but do value organisations who share feedback and case studies.



Contact information for further information

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