



# Guidance for Applicants 2021

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## About Bath Women's Fund

Bath Women's Fund brings together local women who want to support and celebrate women's philanthropy in Bath and the surrounding area. Members contribute £25 per month and decide together how and where to give away these pooled funds. Our giving circle was launched in Autumn 2018 and has 51 members at the start of 2021.

We are committed to promoting equal opportunities and to valuing diversity regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion/belief, culture, language, disability, learning difficulty, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status, health status, or any other discriminatory grounds. Bath Women's Fund is inclusive within the class of women and girls: grants will be made to support all women, including trans women and gender non-conforming women.

## Our Grant-making

Our approach to grant-making is a little unusual. Like other giving circles, part of our role is to encourage women to get involved with philanthropy. Members are involved in the grant making process: they select the theme, review applications, learn about the organisations applying, provide mentoring support to applicants, and vote on who receives the main grant, which will be for £15,000 in 2021.

For more information about giving circles: <https://whatisagivingcircle.com/2/>

In 2020, our theme was 'services for women and girls'. We received 15 Expressions of Interest and invited six organisations to submit full application forms. The following three organisations presented their projects to our members:

Julian House

Mentoring Plus

Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support

Mentoring Plus were awarded a grant of £10,000 for their Girls' Group.

### **About Girls' Group**

*"Girls' Group is a safe space for girls to try new things, to build their confidence and self-esteem. Currently the group has 15 motivated 11-19 year olds meeting regularly alternating between discussion sessions to explore issues and learn about feminism, and workshops where girls engage in activities and meet inspirational female role models.*

*Our Girls' Group feel passionately about having a space to talk, learn, question, make friends and feel supported. The group is inclusive of young people who identify as non-binary and transgender, and every activity is chosen in a collective and diplomatic way. Now they want girls in local schools to benefit as they have. They want more girls to experience supporting each other, to meet inspirational women and to be heard. They want the girls of the world to realise their potential and find their voice, starting in their own communities."*

## Grant-making theme for 2021

Bath Women's Fund members have chosen the following theme for our grant making in 2021:

**Services/projects that increase economic inclusion and support women to move out of poverty.**

Under this theme we expect to fund projects that are about disrupting cycles of poverty and creating lasting change. For example, projects that involve budgeting, debt relief, support into training or employment, and empowerment. We will not be funding immediate relief e.g. food parcels or energy vouchers.

## Funding available

In 2021 we will be awarding one grant of £15,000 and two £1,500 appreciation awards.

## Funding criteria

We are inviting applications from organisations that meet the following criteria:

Organisations must have:

- ✓ a charitable purpose
- ✓ a constitution / governing document
- ✓ a board of at least three unconnected trustees, or a management committee with at least three unconnected members  
*(By unconnected we mean not related by blood, marriage or civil partnership, in a long-term relationship or living together at the same address)*
- ✓ a bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two signatories who are not related to one another. Alternatively, if you are a small organisation that does not have a bank account another charitable organisation can hold the funds for you, but you must provide written authorisation from the organisation that will do this
- ✓ all relevant policies (e.g. safeguarding), procedures and insurances in place
- ✓ a track record of working in Bath and the surrounding area (specifically Bath & North East Somerset).

We want to fund:

- ✓ work/projects that fit within the chosen theme: **Services/projects that increase economic inclusion and support women to move out of poverty;**
- ✓ organisations that seek the views of women and girls and involve them in the running of the organisation.

Please note:

- we prefer to fund organisations that are also based within Bath and the surrounding area;
- we will consider partnerships, but the lead applicant must have a track record of working in Bath and the surrounding area, with local knowledge and connections;
- we prefer to fund smaller organisations where a grant of £15k will make a significant difference;
- we will not be funding immediate relief e.g. food parcels or energy vouchers;
- we will not cover retrospective costs;
- we will not fund party political activity nor the promotion of religion;
- we expect most of the grant to be spent within 12 months.

## How to apply

**Step 1:** complete our Expression of Interest online form **by 5 p.m. Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

This will ask you the following questions:

- What will you do with a grant of £15,000?
- Please describe the women you will be supporting with this project, how they are affected by poverty and their needs?
- How will this project increase the economic inclusion of women and/or how will this support women to move out of poverty?

**Step 2:** members of Bath Women's Fund will review all Expressions of Interests received against the priorities of the fund and will invite a small number of organisations to complete a more detailed application form. We will contact all applicants in April 2021 to let them know whether or not they have been invited to complete a full application form.

**Step 3:** shortlisted organisations will be invited to complete a full application form **by 5 p.m. Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Step 4:** members of Bath Women's Fund will consider all application forms, with input from women affected by poverty. We will invite three organisations to present their work to our members at an online event on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021. We will tell you more about this if you are selected and will connect you with a member of the Bath Women's Fund who will support, mentor and help you with your presentation. We will also ask you to provide a short, written summary for members who cannot attend the event and so who will be voting based on this written information. We will contact all applicants in the middle of June to let them know whether or not they have been invited to present to our members.

**Step 5:** at the event on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, our members will vote for the organisation to be awarded a £15,000 grant. The other two organisations will receive a £1,500 appreciation award.

**Step 6:** the organisation awarded the main grant will report back on their progress at our annual event for members in summer 2022.

Please note: We will provide feedback to applicants who are not successful at Step 2. We welcome feedback from all organisations involved in this process.

If you have any questions about completing the form, please contact Emma Beeston on [emma@emmabeeston.co.uk](mailto:emma@emmabeeston.co.uk)