



Grant Making Guidelines

Introduction

Founded in 2007 by descendants of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expeditions in the early part of the 20th century, the Shackleton Foundation seeks to help disadvantaged and socially marginalised young people. Shackleton helped others to overcome their doubts and fears in the face of true adversity. We are looking for individuals who display those same characteristics of courage and resilience, who have a big idea to help others (we call it your 'Antarctic') and are prepared to take the risk to turn it into reality. We do this by supporting aspiring individuals (we call them Leaders) and social entrepreneurs who exemplify the spirit of Shackleton with seed-funding to help them start their venture. In particular the Trustees are looking for examples of leadership, innovation, enterprise, inspiration, ambition, endurance and courage in the applications they review. Successful applicants can expect to receive assistance with the practical aspects of starting up a social venture. These include:

- Seed-funding
- Mentoring by existing Leaders
- Access to quarterly advice surgeries and an annual Leaders Forum
- Awareness building for your venture
- Introductions to potential second stage funders

General Information

Funding is generally made by means of a single grant or loan of £15,000 to provide the funding needed to get an idea started. Grants/loans are made to individual Leaders and not to teams or organisations.

Trustees have a preference for Leaders to be running charities, social enterprises or not-for-profit organisations.

Eligible ideas must:

- Be innovative and fresh
- Fulfil a clear need and demand
- Be in the first year of development
- Have a real social impact
- Have well-defined outputs and goals
- Have the potential for real growth and sustainability
- The beneficiaries of the work must be based in the UK

Trustees are looking for:

- Leaders with entrepreneurial ideas/inspirational projects capable of making a difference
- Opportunities to support Leaders setting up their own social ventures with financially sustainable projects with the potential to provide solutions to the problems faced by disadvantaged young people in the UK
- Early-stage 'social enterprises' (not more than 12 months old)
- Leaders that they believe have the potential to make their ideas work
- Leadership qualities sought by Trustees include:
 - Innovation
 - Enterprise
 - Inspiration
 - Ambition

- Endurance
- Courage
- Passion
- Energy
- Dedication

Particular aspects that the Trustees will want to understand about the project include:

- How will the Shackleton Award enable you to deliver the project?
- How will disadvantaged young people benefit?
- Approximately how many disadvantaged young people do you expect to benefit directly in the first three years (broken down by year) from this Shackleton Award?
- Where do you see yourself, and your idea, in five years 'time?
- How will you measure success/know that you are succeeding?

As a rule, the Shackleton Foundation does not involve itself in directly financing projects for which substantial government funding and/or grants from a number of trusts or charities are available.

Grant-making Procedure

All applicants to the Shackleton Foundation must submit a completed application form online via the Shackleton Foundation website. Please note we have recently updated our application form so make sure to use the application from directly from the website.

All applications receive the fullest and most careful consideration and are judged on merit and substance. Clarity of presentation and the provision of detailed factual information are of the utmost importance to the Trustees.

All applicants will receive feedback from the Fund's administrator once the Trustees have reviewed the applications.

Shortlisted Applicants

The Trustees review all funding applications and invite the most outstanding potential Leaders to present to them (usually virtually via Zoom/ Teams). These meetings are held quarterly. If you are invited to present to the Trustees, you will be provided with interview guidelines.

If required, travel expenses (but not accommodation) will be reimbursed to applicants who are asked to travel to Central London to present to the Trustees. Receipts must be provided.

The Shackleton Foundation takes the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. For this reason, we require shortlisted applicants to have in place an up-to-date safeguarding policy that is relevant to their beneficiaries. This will be requested at the point of shortlisting. Advice on writing a safeguarding policy that is suitable for your organisation can be found on the NSPCC website [here](#).

Unsuccessful applications will be notified following the Trustees' regular meetings. The Foundation's decisions are final and feedback will not be provided.

Unfortunately the Foundation is not able to enter into any further communication with unsuccessful applicants. Subsequent applications for the same project are not encouraged.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be asked to prepare a Shackleton Leaders' Agreement (SLA), which outlines the key ways in which the project will be managed and what Leaders will share with the Shackleton Foundation in exchange for their Award (a draft SLA is available for successful applicants).

Applicants will be required to undertake the following:

- Attend the annual Shackleton Leaders Forum in the first two years of your award, and try to attend additional forums thereafter.

- Speak at a Shackleton Leaders Forum, if asked
- Sign up for our mentorship program. In the first two years of your award, you agree to be mentored by an alumni Shackleton Foundation Leader. Three years after your award, we request that you become a Mentor for a new intake of Leaders for their first two years. We anticipate each mentoring session will be up to 60 mins per quarter.
- Attend at least two of the three Leaders Information and Advice Surgeries in the first year of your award (approx. 45-60 mins per event)

Guidelines on Grant or Loan

The Shackleton Foundation will issue a £15,000 grant Award to social enterprises whose legal structure falls into categories A, B, C, D or E below.

The Shackleton Foundation will issue a £15,000 loan Award to social enterprises whose legal structure falls into categories F, G, H or I below. The loan facility would be interest-free with no fixed term. The main condition is that when your organisation becomes profitable, it would repay the loan before distributing to shareholders. Information on the terms of the loan will be available to successful applicants.

Legal Structures.

- A. Unincorporated Registered Charity
- B. Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- C. Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status
- D. Community Interest Company Limited by Shares (CIC-CLS)
- E. Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee (CIC-CLG)
- F. Company Limited by Shares (CLS)
- G. Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG)
- H. Sole Trader/Partnership
- I. Other