

BSF Questions & Answers:

2026-03-17 10:16:30 From Lucy Martin to Everyone:

What would happen if an organisation needed funding for repair work - replacing doors/fixing a roof/new boiler - and knew that £10,000 would be sufficient, so therefore Bernard Sunley would cover it totally - would that be OK? i.e., no need to find additional funding.

Answer: BSF are not able to fund a project in full. If the total project cost is **£10,000 or above**, BSF would be able to contribute **a portion of the costs, up to a maximum of £5,000**. If the total cost of the project is **under £10,000**, BSF would **not** be able to contribute any funding.

2026-03-17 10:16:41 From Helen Brown Beacon Centre to Everyone:

Does this fundraising need to link specifically to the project?

Answer: Yes, the fundraising will need to be allocated to the project. It cannot count toward the total already raised if it is intended to be used for another purpose

2026-03-17 10:17:17 From Beds RCC to Everyone:

Can one organisation submit more than one application in the same financial year two very different projects e.g. building repairs to a community hub and replacement mini-bus for community transport?

Answer: Yes, in theory an organisation could submit more than one application. If the first application was **rejected**, they would need to wait **12 months** before applying to the Foundation again. If the first application was **accepted**, they *could* submit a second one however the Foundation would take the outstanding or incomplete project into account and may choose not to support a second application while the first project is still being fundraised for.

2026-03-17 10:18:15 From Angela Milligan to Everyone:

How long would you hold funding for if putting towards a larger project?

Answer: 2 years. We can consider extensions on a case-by-case basis

2026-03-17 10:18:33 From Deaf Experience to Everyone:

would you accept a joint application from two charities that work in the same community?

Answer: In theory, yes. In practice, BSF would still expect to see one organisation as the lead applicant. It would be this organisation who would need to submit their annual accounts on the application.

2026-03-17 10:18:35 From Simon Bull to Everyone:

Are charities with a national focus (group of rare diseases) welcome to apply?

Answer: Yes, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

2026-03-17 10:19:24 From Angela Milligan to Everyone:

Would you cover fees needed to be covered to start a project, e.g. architects' fees, surveyors' fees, energy audit?

Answer: No, BSF are not able to support additional contracting costs.

2026-03-17 10:25:31 From Helen Brown Beacon Centre to Everyone:

Could you explain a little more about your preference for part funding? Is it based on the amount applied for?

Answer: It remains at the trustee's discretion to contribute at any point throughout a project's fundraising journey. BSF would usually look to see local support in place before contributing funding. This is not, however, based on the amount applied for.

2026-03-17 10:26:28 From claura to Everyone:

Hi, if unsuccessful, can we re-apply in the same year/round, making adjustments based on feedback received

Answer: No, you would not be able to re-apply in the same year or round. If an application is **unsuccessful, you must wait 12 months before applying again.**

2026-03-17 10:26:40 From Pam Williams to Everyone:

is planning permission being in place an absolute rule? Our homeless shelter project needs us to acquire a suitable building and then design the appropriate project to deliver a 10 bed shelter. Should we hold fire and apply to you for the later aspects of the project? We have approx. 50% already raised of a £800k total cost.

Answer: Planning permission must be in place before BSF is able to offer support to a construction project. However, BSF are on occasion also able to contribute funding toward building purchase costs, so you could either apply at this stage to help with purchase costs or apply at a later date for the refurbishment once planning permission is secured. It would be best to call the office and discuss the project details in advance of submitting an application of this sort.

2026-03-17 10:26:41 From Lucy Martin to Everyone:

I'm guessing, now, though, that if the quote was £5K, Bernard Sunley would offer around £2.5K - is that right? Would it always be that an organisation had to find additional funding, even if the total cost was less than £10K?

Answer: BSF are unable to support projects with a total cost of £10,000

2026-03-17 10:26:45 From Helen Kenwright to Everyone:

For large/medium grants, is there a proportion of funding that's usual?

Answer: No there is not a specific proportion. Mediums are likely to be between £10,000 and £20,000. Larges can be £25,000 and above

2026-03-17 10:27:59 From Claire Smith CFY to Everyone:

would children's sports clubs count?

Answer: Only if it was registered as either a charity, CIO or Community Benefit Society, and had least one year of registered annual accounts.

2026-03-17 10:28:17 From Vanessa she/her to Everyone:

Have you funded organisations that support a community of interest rather than a neighbourhood? e.g. a community centre for Global South communities or a centre for LGBTU+ community?

Answer: BSF does indeed fund communities of interest/Charities which work nationally as apposed to regionally. Please note, however, the organisation would still need to be registered in (and be doing work in) either England or Wales and meet all other eligibility criteria.

2026-03-17 10:28:37 From Helen Kenwright to Everyone:

And does the rest of the funding already have to be in place?

Answer: The rest of the funding does not need to be in place. BSF would usually expect to see at least a small proportion in place from local fundraising before an organisation begins applying for grants.

2026-03-17 10:29:04 From Angela Milligan to Everyone:

Is there a max. percentage of a project you will fund (recognising the limit of each type of grant)? E.g. would for a £10,000 project, would you give the full £5,000, or less than that?

Answer: There is not a specific percentage limit. There are a wide range of factors which will influence the size of the grant. Whilst there is not an absolute rule, you are correct that for a smaller sized project you would often expect to receive a smaller sized grant.

2026-03-17 10:31:51 From Lucy Martin to Everyone:

If you are a DA charity, what sort of thing would be funded that's DA/SA specific? Would that still be capital funding only?

Answer: Yes, we are still only able to offer support for capital costs.

2026-03-17 10:38:50 From cpavey to Everyone:

Might you be prepared to support a project but offer a part of the request or do you only give a Yes/no to amount requested?

Answer: We do not expect Organisations applying to request a specific amount. It remains to the trustees so decide how much is allocated to each successful project.

2026-03-17 10:39:26 From Vanessa she/her to Everyone:

Does it matter where the additional funds come from. You have mentioned bake sales and community fundraising events. What about if you get a grant from a statutory body or other trust or foundation?

Answer: As BSF are a partial funder, we do often expect to see funding coming from other trusts and foundations as well as other additional funding avenues. Regarding statutory funding, this is acceptable provided it accounts for only a portion of the costs. The foundation is less interested in supporting projects which have a large portion funded by statutory funds.

2026-03-17 10:42:10 From Angela Milligan to Everyone:

Do you fund energy efficiency measures - insulation, new windows/doors, and renewables solar panels and batteries, heat pumps?

Answer: Yes, BSF funds all these items. Please note that whilst BSF does on occasion support the purchase and installation of solar panels, these are not a priority for the foundation and are rarely funded as the sole focus of a project.

2026-03-17 10:45:59 From Ruth Harvey - Wolverhampton Arts Centre (WAC) to Everyone:

We have a capital programme that is likely to go on for 10+ years, we have a large suite of buildings (and meet your income criteria). Would you support regular applications? I will give you a call, but this could be helpful for others on the call too

Answer: Yes, BSF does on occasion support this style of application. As mentioned, it would be best to call and discuss the project details in advance of submitting an official application.