



SOCIAL
INVESTMENT
FUND

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
CRITERIA & GUIDELINES
ROUND 2, 2026

Under the Small Grants Programme, the Social Investment Fund awards grants of up to £15,000 to registered charities and not-for-profit organisations.

*There are two rounds of Small Grants applications in 2026. This first round of this year was exclusively for applications related to arts, culture, heritage and sport. The second round, which opens on 21st September, accepts applications from **all sectors**.*

Applications for multi-year grants can be made via the Major Grants Programme – see www.sif.gg for further details.

Before making an application

If you are unsure whether your organisation or project might qualify for assistance under the Small Grants Programme, or if you have any questions about the application process, including whether you should apply for a Small or Major grant, please contact SIF's Grant Officer, Estelle Day, on 01481 223613 or estelle.day@gov.gg

Funding costs covered by SIF

- One-off projects;
- Capital expenses;
- Running costs of up to a year's duration;
- Applications for salary costs within specific projects, usually of up to one year's duration, will be considered. Any other salary costs may be considered on an exceptional basis for no more than one year, but in general, ongoing salary costs are not supported within this programme.

Eligibility

- Registered charities or NPOs operating within or to benefit the Bailiwick of Guernsey.
- Organisations based within Sark should be registered with the Sark Registrar (Alderney comes under Guernsey Registry).
- Joint applications are welcome from organisations wishing to work together to achieve a shared outcome;
- Appropriate applications from public sector service areas in support of third sector or community initiatives may be considered - please discuss these with us before applying;
- Applications from social enterprises may also be considered and again should be discussed before applying;
- Funding for one-off fundraising initiatives may be considered;
- Sports organisations are expected to have gained (or be in the process of gaining) the Guernsey Sports Commission's SportsMark quality assurance award.



Applications

Applications should be focused on people in our Bailiwick community, on the services and support they need, or are of benefit to our community. You should be able to explain how the grant, if awarded, will be used to help achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improving the lives of people with specific needs, disadvantages or vulnerabilities
- Creating employment, education or training opportunities
- The protection of our natural environment, culture and heritage
- Improved health and wellbeing for our community
- An inclusive community which challenges the barriers causing disadvantage and discrimination

Activities which cannot be funded

- Activities outside the Bailiwick of Guernsey or that do not benefit residents of the Bailiwick;
- Applications from individuals, as opposed to incorporated or registered entities;
- Ongoing salary costs are generally not supported within this programme;
- Applications seeking to promote political or faith groups will not be supported (however applications are welcome from faith groups for community activities which meet the outcomes above);
- Applications for explicit lobbying activities;
- If more than one year's reserves are held, justification will need to be provided why these existing reserves cannot be used to fund the proposed activity;
- SIF will not generally fund applications which include repairs or redevelopment of properties not owned by the charity;
- Activities which duplicate a service already provided;
- Applicants cannot apply for funding for their own salaries (for example, the salary of a CEO/ Manager should be submitted by a board member);
- Applications are not likely to be accepted from fundraising or grant giving bodies unless previously agreed with SIF;

The Application Process

- There are details of how to apply, including Frequently Asked Questions, on SIF's website: <https://sif.gg//grant-programmes/small-grants-programme/>
- You can apply directly online via SIF's grant application portal, using the following link: https://socialinvestmentfund.smartsimpleuk.com/s_Login.jsp
- You will need to register on the system before you can complete the form.
- You will need to submit your most recent accounts, which should be independently reviewed, either through an audit or accountant's report. You may be asked to submit extra information relating to your organisation's finances and governance, depending on the nature of your application. You can attach extra documentation electronically.



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- Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an email to confirm that it has been received. You will then be asked some follow-up questions, relating to your organisation's due diligence and safeguarding. Once you have provided all the required information, your application will be processed, and a decision will be made by the SIF board in November 2026.

The deadline for submitting a complete application is 12pm on Monday, 19th October 2026.

You will be notified in writing of the outcome of your application. If you are to be awarded a grant, you will be sent a grant agreement letter to sign, after which the money will be paid into the nominated account.

If an application receives funding, SIF reserves the right to release to the media and to publish on its website details of any grant being awarded.

Consideration of Applications

Even if your application meets all of the eligibility criteria there is no guarantee of funding. SIF will base its decision on a range of factors, including the number of people who will benefit from the service or project in question; the impact of the project or service; the financial health of the organisation; the extent to which the charity works with partnership organisations to deliver shared objectives; and so on. Ultimately, SIF aims to direct money where, in its estimation, it is most needed.

There is no right of appeal against a decision not to award funding. A decision to refuse funding does not prevent you applying again in future.

Decisions on applications will be made in early December.

Use of AI for SIF grant applications

We understand that AI tools can help charities save time on writing applications and we support charities using these technologies. However, we want to help charities use this technology as best as possible. Unchecked, AI applications can be generic, not give a clear voice to the charity and not highlight the unique strengths of the charity. AI produced applications may also include incorrect information. It's your responsibility to conduct a final human review of your application to ensure it isn't misleading or inaccurate. A good rule of thumb is that "AI should inform judgment, not replace it."

Please ensure that you are not relying on AI to fully respond to questions within the application and that you only use it for preparing a first draft, formatting, and spell checking. You must also ensure that if you use AI to describe your organisation's activities or impact, that these descriptions are true to your organisation's actual activities or impact. SIF grants are focused on the impact that funding makes and if you make wrongful claims concerning activities or impact then the organisation would be in breach of a SIF grant award.



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We want to hear your unique voice, so please use your time to tailor your responses to add context and details specific to your charity and to convey your organisation's story or approach.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be asked to complete a brief report template once the money has been spent, no later than a year after payment, to confirm how the funds were used, describe any challenges encountered, and specify the extent to which the grant achieved the outcomes intended.

Applications for other SIF grants

Small Grants applicants are eligible to make funding applications under SIF's other grants programmes for different projects/activities.

Further Information

Please contact SIF's Grant Officer with any questions: estelle.day@gov.gg or 01481 223613.

Data Privacy Statement

SIF will collect and process the name, position in the organisation, telephone number and email address of your charity's main contact, in addition to the name of your organisation's Directors and senior staff, for the purpose of this application. This personal data will be used to support the application process, to notify the charity of the outcome of the application assessment, and, if successful, to discuss grant monitoring and reporting, and PR and marketing (regarding information limited to the organisation). Your personal data will only be used for these specified purposes.

The personal data provided through this application form will be held on our database and will be kept for a period of 7 years. The details obtained about the organisation or project through this application form will be stored by SIF on our database in order to process the application and for the purpose of grant monitoring and reporting, PR and marketing (regarding information limited to the organisation). Data may be shared with other funding bodies which might be able to assist with the application but will not be shared for any other purpose without consent having been given.

Under the Data Protection (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2017, you have the right:

- of access to your personal data (if anything is inaccurate or incorrect, please let us know and we will correct it); and
- to request that your data be expunged from our database.

For further information on how your personal data will be processed for this purpose and the further rights afforded to you under the Data Protection Law or to make a complaint about our use of your personal data, please contact SIF via Sadie.SiviterdePaucar@gov.gg

If the application receives funding, SIF will release details of the amount given, and how it will be spent, to the media and / or on its website for promotional purposes.

If you would like to receive a copy of SIF's Fair Processing Notice, please also contact Sadie.