



Application Guidelines

Updated April 2026

We are currently moving to an online application process. Please bear with us through this transitional phase. The process will be live from 1st May 2026

1. Eligibility

Applicants must be a Registered Charity, exempt charity, or Community Interest Company, benefitting communities in the Greater Bristol area. This map shows our area of benefit:



CICs must have been established for at least three years and have an annual income of at least £50,000 with at least 25% of income from trading.

Sectors supported:

- **Children and Young People**
Prioritising organisations and projects which support disadvantaged young people to gain skills for life and work
- **The Arts**
Supporting performance venues and activities for disadvantaged children and young people
- **Prevention of Homelessness**

Including support for organisations who provide advice and guidance to people at risk of losing their homes.

- **Community Cohesion**

Projects which support equality, diversity and social inclusion for high need groups from all communities in the city.

Exclusions

The following are not eligible:

- Medical research
- Single condition medical charities
- Hospices
- Grants for Individuals
- Animal welfare charities
- Sponsorship

National charities, and those based outside of Bristol are less likely to be supported. CICs whose core business model is substantially grant-reliant are unlikely to be successful.

2. How to Apply

From 1st May an Expression of Interest Form will be available on our How to Apply Page.

This will ask a few questions about your organisation, how much you wish to apply for, and a brief description of the work.

We will respond as quickly as possible to your EOI. If it is successful we will provide a link to our **online form**. We no longer accept email applications.

This is not an assessment stage. It is designed to ensure that those that do apply are applying for work that is a good fit with our priorities and that the amount applied for is feasible. We will advise you if we recommend a modified request amount and give you any other pertinent information to give your full application the best possible chance of success.

We will either send you a link to the full application or explain why we feel that your application is unlikely to be successful/is not a good fit with our grant making priorities.

The success rate for full eligible applications where organisations have submitted an enquiry is in the region of 80%.

There are two levels of revenue grant:

- Small – up to £10,000
- Medium – £10,001 to £30,000

Capital Grant applications can be larger.

Applications can request funding for up to three years.

Applicants may suggest a preference for any level of grant, but the final amount may vary at the discretion of the trustees.

Applications for Small and Medium grants may be for project costs, capital costs or core costs. Project costs may include a reasonable proportion of core costs relevant to the project.

Budget Information

If you are applying for core costs, then please provide budget information for your whole organisation. If you are applying for project costs, please provide a project budget

3. Safeguarding

The Nisbet Trust takes the safeguarding of children and adults at risk seriously and we require organisations applying for funding to have a safeguarding policy which is up-to-date and relevant to their beneficiaries. We ask you to submit a copy of your safeguarding policy with your application.

4. Deadlines

You can submit an Expression of Interest at any time.

Please check deadline dates on the website for full applications. www.nisbettrust.co.uk.

Applications will be acknowledged.

We will publish the likely outcome notification dates.

If you do not receive notification, please contact us.

Following an application, please do not reapply for at least twelve months (from the deadline date of your previous application)

5. Reporting

Small & Medium Grants

Your offer email will indicate reporting deadlines and we will automatically send you a reminder four weeks before the due date with a link to upload your report.

We do not provide a report format. Reports should ideally be no more than 2 pages long and should report on the activities and outcomes in your application.

Capital Grants

We will agree reporting conditions at the time of our grant

5. Contact Details

Queries:

Please make sure you have read the application guidance carefully first.

Please make contact by email in the first instance:

Key contacts:

Alison Hope, Director E: alison.hope@nisbettrust.co.uk

Gemma Roberts, Administrator E: admin@nisbettrust.co.uk