

The Paristamen Charity

Standing beside charities with small grants to make a big difference

BLUE SKY GRANT PROGRAMME 2022

Mental Health of Young People in Scotland

*Got a great idea that your charity can't get funding for?
We are offering a one-off £25,000 grant for exactly that!*

Deadline for proposals: 15 October 2021

(But please make contact before then for an informal discussion if possible)

The Paristamen Charity is a small grant-maker based in East Lothian but supporting charitable work across Scotland and sometimes further afield.

From 2021 we are launching a new programme which we are calling "Blue Sky Grants" – the idea is to offer a £25,000 grant to enable a charity to do something as a significant one-off initiative – maybe something usual or controversial would be unattractive to traditional funders.

(The Blue Sky Grant will be by far our largest grant of the year – most of our awards are responsive grants, usually of £500 - £1000. For more about Paristamen see our website www.paristamen.org.uk)

For 2021 we are looking for proposals concerned in some way with ***Mental Health of Young People in Scotland***.

The focus of the grant

The trustees are looking to support a charity with the skills and experience to develop a new project or initiative that you expect will lead to significant benefits in terms of the *Mental Health of Young People in Scotland*.

But – subject to that overall theme – we are open to considering anything!

The Recipient

We would expect to award this grant to a charity with a good track record in work that benefits young people in Scotland. You don't have to be specifically a mental health charity (or even specifically a young people's charity) – so long as it is clear that your work will benefit young people's mental health.

The Project

We are looking to fund an imaginative project which will seek to make a real difference to these issues.

We do not want to prescribe details – rather we would prefer to see imaginative proposals from charities with experience in these fields – for a specific initiative that you believe would make a real difference to your work. This could well be an apparently unpopular project for which it is difficult to secure funding.

The project will need to propose some details as to how the project will be organised, publicised, staffed and delivered, but we are open to almost anything. It may use a mix of resources or activities or direct 1-1 support to individuals.

The project doesn't necessarily have to involve direct work with young people – if you are a charity with a significant focus on young people's mental health but you need an injection of funds to help develop the organisation's capacity more generally or to support campaigning work we are open to suggestions.

So long as you can show that ultimately our grant is likely to lead to significant benefits in terms of supporting mental health issues with young people, we are open to proposals of all kinds.

Guidance on Prospective Bids – Q&A

Q1 Are there any geographical restrictions?

A1 The project must be focused in Scotland but could be hosted by a Scottish charity or a UK-wide charity with a significant presence in Scotland. However, it could involve collaboration with other partners. The focus could be Scotland-wide or a more limited area – but subject to that, the community supported does not have to be defined geographically.

Q2 Does this have to be a “new” project?

A2 Effectively, yes. We are happy to fund additional work by a charity which is already undertaking similar work, but our Blue Sky Grant must support something new which makes sense as a one-off initiative (so not work for which you will need ongoing funding). However, as we say above, it doesn't necessarily have to be for frontline work.

Q3 What is the timescale for use of the grant?

A3 There is no specific time period: maybe you want to spend the whole grant in a very short time on a major outreach initiative – or maybe you would rather fund an additional part-time post over several years. Just make the timetable clear in your application. The grant will be offered from January 2022, though depending on the project it may be paid by instalments.

Q4 Can a bid be made by several organisations in partnership?

A4 Yes, we welcome constructive partnerships if you feel that is helpful (though it is by no means essential) but there must be one charity as lead partner, with a significant presence in Scotland.

Q5 Must the grant be treated as a restricted fund?

A5 Yes, our grant will be restricted to this project (including an appropriate share of organisational overheads, if needed) – but the project could be defined in broad terms.

Q6 Must the project involve direct support to individuals?

A6 Not necessarily. As indicated it could be for direct work with young people or broader campaigning or helping to build capacity. We are happy that some of the funding would be used for publicity and communications and broader educational work. But you must be able to show how it will lead to benefits to young people's mental health in Scotland.

Q7 Are you looking for a project with Christian links or themes?

A7 Not specifically. Although *some* of the grants made by Paristamen are specifically for Christian work our charitable objects are much broader and this grant will fall under our wider grant-making. Whilst we are always interested in links with faith-based organisations if they have relevant expertise that is certainly *not* a requirement.

Q8 If the project goes well could we apply for a further grant to continue the work?

A8 No, our Blue Sky Grants are specifically one-off. The Paristamen Charity would not be in a position to provide further funding beyond this specific grant.

Organisation and Financing of the Project

We are looking for imaginative bids which fall within the broad criteria above, but we do not wish to prescribe how the project should be run or organised.

However, applications must show how the £25K would be spent by means of a clear breakdown of costs under appropriate headings. Where staff costs are involved, please indicate the role(s)

concerned, the amount of time and rates of pay that would apply. We anticipate most of the funding will be used for the running costs of the project (including salaries as applicable) but if any capital purchases are required please give details. However, broadly speaking we would prefer to fund activities rather than long term assets.

About Paristamen

The Paristamen Charity is a small grant-making charity now based in Dunbar, East Lothian. Our objects are relatively broad – they cover (a) the advancement of the Christian faith and (b) any other charitable purpose which is not inconsistent with (a). We make some grants for explicitly Christian projects, but also many broader grants to charities working in fields such as poverty and disadvantage, health, advice work, human rights. The charity is governed by three trustees who have a wide range of experience in the voluntary sector. See www.paristamen.org.uk for more details.

Application process and timescales

We are keen to keep the application process as simple as possible – we do not wish to waste your time preparing a complex bid which is unlikely to succeed.

- (a) If you feel your charity may be in a position to bid for this grant, we would encourage you to make contact as soon as possible to discuss an application informally before applying. Please call (01368 864582) or email our Chair of Trustees, Gareth Morgan gareth@paristamen.org.uk – but please bear in mind this is a relatively small charity run by the trustees on a voluntary basis: we do not employ staff, so please allow a few days for a response. If time permits, he may be willing to comment on a draft application.
- (b) Please send the full application enclosing a copy of your charity's latest *Annual Report and Accounts* to reach us not later than 15 October 2021.

The application should as a minimum give the following information.

1. Proposed title for the project.
2. Name and charitable status of the organisation applying (including registered charity number(s) as applicable).
3. Name and status of any partner organisations.
4. Names and contact details (including postal address*, tel no and email) for key individuals to be involved – including an overall co-ordinator who would be the prime contact with ourselves. (*We assume the postal address for correspondence will be the address of the charity, but a home address is acceptable if more appropriate.)
5. Details of relevant expertise for the organisations(s) including key individuals, including previous work on these issues, access to wider networks etc.
6. Explanation of the proposed events/activities that will be arranged in response to the project brief above. Please be as specific as possible.
7. Proposed timescales and budget – how you *expect* the resources to be used. If part of our grant will be transferred to partner organisations, please make this clear. On the expenditure side, if you will need to charge any general overhead costs to this grant, please make that clear.) If you will be using income from other sources towards the project, please make this clear.
8. Details of how you would like the grant paid (if successful) including bank details if you would prefer to receive payments by BACS (but we are happy to make payment by cheque if preferred). Payment can only be made to an account in the name of the charity making or leading the bid to us.

9. Your proposals for reporting back to us. We would expect to have a direct meeting with the successful bidder at the start of the project and to keep in contact by email as the project proceeds with a final report of some kind. We would appreciate being invited to any major event that forms part of the project, and we would like to receive copies of all media projected.
 10. We would welcome some indication of how you will assess the success of the project but there is no need to establish elaborate monitoring arrangements.
 11. We will also wish to receive your charity's latest Annual Report and Accounts – both with your application and for each year the project is running. As explained above, we would expect this project to appear clearly as a restricted fund in those accounts. Please see our website for guidance on submitting accounts – we always need the latest *final* report and accounts showing approval by your trustees and auditor or independent examiner.
- (c) Applications must be submitted to reach us not later than Friday 15 October 2021 preferably by email to: admin@paristamen.org.uk. If emailing, *please send all documents as PDFs*.
- If sending by post please send to: Mrs Sharon Morgan (Admin Trustee), The Paristamen Charity, 10 Kings Court DUNBAR EH42 1ZG. (If you need to send reports and accounts with lots of colour or more than 30 pages we would prefer to have them by post.)
- (d) All applications will be initially reviewed by one trustee to check they meet the criteria for the scheme and if so, they will then be seen by all trustees before a decision is made. We will let you know whether your application is going forward to consideration at the trustees meeting.
- (e) Decisions will be taken at our trustees meeting in early November 2021. We may need to contact you at that stage to discuss further details, but if there are no further conditions or issues to resolve, we would expect to send confirmation of the grant award by late November 2021. (We will also let you know if your application is unsuccessful.)

Assessment Criteria

Given the provision for informal liaison before a formal bid we hope to avoid triggering large numbers of bids which are unlikely to succeed. However, at the final stage each trustee will separately score each application and the total scores will be considered.

To some extent grant-making is a subjective process and it always depends in part on how the trustees "feel" about the strength of applications, but the following criteria are likely to be considered:

- The charity's track record/experience in the field concerned
- The charity's access to appropriate networks to reach potential beneficiaries
- The vision for how the project will actually work
- The clarity of the application
- The extent to which the project is likely to have some long term impact beyond the specific events or resources generated
- The case you make with regard to the likely impact of a £25,000 grant
- Whether the applicant charity appears to be well run and effectively governed (as indicated, for example, by the Annual Report and Accounts and whether existing financial resources are being well used).

Although we hope to make a single grant of £25,000 under this programme we reserve the right not to award a grant or to make a smaller grant if we do not feel the applications are strong enough.

Some more general information about The Paristamen Charity and further copies of this document are available on our website www.paristamen.org.uk