

Richmond Parish Lands Charity

Frequently Asked Questions

Grants to organisations

1. When are you introducing the new grant streams?

The new grant streams were introduced in December 2023. All applications from that date should use the new application form.

2. I am in the final year of RPLC multi-year funding, when can I apply again?

If you are coming to the end of multi-year funding you can choose to apply to the grants committee up to 6 months before your normal application date. For example, if you are on a cycle where you would normally submit M&E in July for consideration at the September grants committee you can apply for a new multi-year grant for consideration at our March committee (deadline of 26 January 2024) for a delivery start date of September 2024.

3. The Application Form has a maximum word count for each question. Do I need to write the max number of words for each question?

No, there is no need to meet the max word count, but you can't exceed this. We're looking for clear succinct answers to each of the application questions.

4. Our latest audited/filed accounts show that our reserves are higher than that the maximum recommended in our reserves policy. Can I still apply for funding?

We would not normally fund applications from organisations that have high levels of reserves. As part of our due diligence processes RPLC will review latest accounts and take into account the reason why you had higher reserves in our assessment. Please contact the Grants team if you would like further information.

5. I am planning to apply for core funding but my charity is going through a strategic review and I am worried that my organisational goals will change during the 3-year grant funding period. Can I update these?

Yes. You can discuss changes to your organisational goals with the Grants Team and include alterations in your annual Monitoring and Evaluation return. Sometimes goals are met early or are superseded by unforeseen events or strategic changes.

6. Who does RPLC include in its definition of "disadvantaged children and young people"?

Disadvantaged children and young people (CYP) is used to mean CYP who meet the criteria used for deciding their school's pupil premium funding (this includes CYP claiming free schools meals

at any point in the last six years); CYP with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); CYP who meet the definition of children in need of help and protection; CYP receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who have left care through adoption or another formal route. RPLC also includes other CYP who are experiencing inequality of educational outcomes including young carers, CYP from certain ethnic groups, and CYP from households with a low income.

7. Do you fund faith groups?

We do not fund anything where the grant will be used to promote the practice of religion, or any activities that promote religion or particular belief systems (or the lack of belief). This is because these activities could exclude people from accessing a project on religious grounds. RPLC can fund activities if they are not exclusive to only those who practice that religion. For example, running community activities for local families if it is open to the public and doesn't involve religious activity, running debt management/household budgeting courses for anyone in the community.

8. Can I apply for capital funding to help with refurbishment costs?

RPLC does not fund major capital appeals and we do not fund improvements to a building that is mainly used as a place of worship or for other religious activities. For example, we wouldn't fund new pews for a church. In exceptional circumstances we can fund minor refurbishments and upgrades to a community venue if this is aligned to our grant priorities. Please contact the Grants team to discuss.

9. Can I apply for a grant to subsidise our normal membership costs?

We fund a large number of local charities who provide free or subsidised support for local people. However, we do not provide floats to organisations for them to offer free or subsidised memberships alongside paid-for places.

10. We're a school in your benefit area. Can we apply for funding?

We cannot fund anything that anything which is the primary responsibility of a statutory body. In general, we can't fund staffing in individual schools, ongoing projects or projects which address issues common to all schools. Sometimes we make exceptions for schools that have the highest Pupil Premium numbers and lowest levels of attainment. If you have an urgent, one-off project, we may be able to help depending on budgets available, but please contact the grants team before spending time on an application. We can fund voluntary sector partners to deliver projects in school settings.

11. Can we apply for cross-school collaborative projects?

We're keen to hear about the development of these kinds of projects. We may be able to help if your project targets disadvantaged children and shares best practice across the borough.

12. Some questions on the application form don't apply to us as we're a school, e.g. public liability insurance, filed accounts. Will this affect the likelihood of our application being successful?

Your application will be considered in the context of being a school rather than a VCS organisation. If you have any queries or problems with the online application form please contact the grants team.

13. Can we apply for a grant for school staff training?

Our individual education grants support the training of staff in schools and the VCS in our benefit area. The training should benefit both the individual and the school, and ideally target the education of disadvantaged children. Please note that we do not usually fund training beyond degree level 6. We also consider applications from schools or Headteacher locality groups for staff training which can be cascaded to others in the borough. Again, the focus will be on the education and development of disadvantaged children.

Grants to individuals

1. How much Education Grant can I apply for towards my expenses whilst I study for a degree?

We expect undergraduates to access student finance in full, including for fees and maintenance and options for extra help. Full information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>. We also ask you to research other options such as bursaries and university hardship funds by speaking to the student support services at your university. If you still have a shortfall and you have particular personal circumstances that make it difficult to take on part-time or holiday work, you can apply for a maximum £3,000 this year. You can make one application each year, however please note that our maximum for undergraduate grants varies from year-to-year and may decrease.

2. Can I apply for an Education Grant towards post-graduate study or a second degree?

RPLC prioritises funding to people from a low-education background and without a degree. We do not offer grants towards the cost of post-graduate study or for subsequent degrees. An exception may be made for people working in the voluntary and community sector who are upskilling to meet a particular sector need, in which case please contact the Grants team to discuss.

3. What are Child Support grants?

We provide Child Support grants each year to every school in our benefit area. These are used by Headteachers to support the education of disadvantaged pupils in their community. Typically, it's used to subsidise residential journeys and class visits, for places at breakfast/after school/holiday clubs or other activities, towards uniform costs, and various therapies. We don't decide how this is used; please direct any queries to your Headteacher.