

## Frequently Asked Questions – RAFT Fund

### The Funding Offer

#### **Will everyone who applies for funding receive a grant?**

Unfortunately we don't have sufficient funding to make grants to all who apply. The RAFT fund is aimed at high-quality, well-managed organisations with great leadership that can use this funding to meet the rapidly changing needs of their beneficiaries, remain viable and prepare for delivery when the acute phase of the crisis is over. Your application will be considered against criteria that enable us to assess the strength of your organisation and the proposed use of funds.

#### **What is the grant size?**

For RAFT, you may request a grant of up to £5,000. Should you require additional funding, you will be advised of your eligibility to re-apply once the first grant has been approved. There will be no set interval before re-application but for those that are eligible to re-apply, we will need to see evidence of progress made with the first grant before we will consider approving another grant.

#### **What can the funding be used for?**

The Fore's grants are unrestricted and can be used for any purpose, including core costs. However, the aim of this fund is to support and strengthen your organisation so it can meet beneficiary needs over the coming months, and in particular as COVID-19 restrictions begin to be lifted. For this reason, we would encourage you to learn as much as you can about all emergency government and foundation funding so The Fore's unrestricted RAFT funding can complement any other support you might be able to access. There is advice and a list of resources [here](#) providing some details of different funding and support that you might be eligible for. If you need volunteering support to access any of the government help available, or if you need skilled support for financial or legal advice, please consider registering for the [RAFT Directory](#).

#### **If I am successful, what will The Fore require in terms of monitoring?**

Because of the exceptional circumstances we are in, The Fore will not be using its standard monitoring and evaluation approach for these grants. We will be in touch with all grantees to gather some data, but we will not burden you with undue reporting. However, as noted above, if you wish to apply for funding beyond the initial grant, we will want to see evidence of progress with your first grant.

### Eligibility

#### **Does my organisation need to be a registered charity?**

We accept applications from UK-registered charities, community interest companies, charitable incorporated organisations and community benefit societies.

#### **Can I apply if my organisation is a company limited by guarantee?**

Unfortunately we can only accept applications from companies limited by guarantee if they are also UK-registered charities. Otherwise we cannot accept applications from companies limited by guarantee, even if they have other elements associated with social enterprises (such as asset locks, non-distribution clauses or charitable/social purposes).

#### **We have applied to be a registered charity/community interest company/charitable incorporated organisation/community benefit society, but our application has not yet been approved. Can we still apply for funding?**

We are unable to fund organisations whose registration as a charity, community interest company, charitable incorporated organisation or community benefit society in the UK is in process but has not yet been approved. Please do not apply to the RAFT fund until you have received confirmation from the relevant regulator that your registration has been approved.

#### **Do you fund charitable activities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as England?**

Yes.

#### **Do you fund charitable activities overseas?**

Yes, but the organisation needs to have a base and be registered within the UK as described above.

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**My organisation has annual income of more than £500,000. Can we still apply for funding?**

Unfortunately not. The Fore only provides grants to organisations with less than £500,000 annual income.

**If I have been turned down for a RAFT grant, can I apply again?**

Unfortunately we cannot accept applications from organisations that have already been turned down for RAFT funding.

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## **Registration and Application**

### **How do I apply for funding?**

The Fore will open and close the RAFT fund for applications so as not to create a backlog of applications in the system or have organisations spend time on an application if we don't believe we will have sufficient funds. To apply for funding, check on the website that the RAFT fund is open for applications. Please read the Guidelines for Application, then complete the form and submit your application.

### **How long will the RAFT fund stay open for applications?**

Registration is run on a first-come, first-served basis. The Fore may close applications to the RAFT fund if demand for grants outstrips funds available. However The Fore is committed to ongoing fundraising for the RAFT fund as we are acutely aware of the lack of support available to small charities and social enterprises during the Covid19 crisis. Therefore our intention is that even if we are required to close the fund for applications, it will soon be able to reopen. We therefore encourage you to keep a close eye on The Fore website and/or twitter feed to keep updated.

### **I applied but I have not heard back from The Fore. What do I do?**

Please first check the spam/junk folder of the e-mail address you used to register. We will be processing applications as quickly as we can and you will receive feedback from your assessor via email but, if you have not heard back from us within two weeks of your application, please e-mail [raft@thefore.org](mailto:raft@thefore.org).

### **Am I required to include a project budget in my application?**

No project budget is required, just a simple description of how you intend to spend the grant.

### **Do I need to include a financial table in my application?**

You do not need to include a financial table in your application, but we ask that you provide your assessor with your most recent management accounts as well as a cash flow forecast if you have one easily available.

### **We are a new organisation and don't have any accounts.**

If you cannot provide any annual / year-end accounts that have been submitted to the Charity Commission or Companies House we will not be able to consider your application.

### **I don't have my audited accounts for this year. Can I still apply?**

Yes. Please attach the most recent audited accounts you have available, and please include your most recent management accounts.

### **There's something odd or unusual about our financial history, and we think it may be confusing. What should we do?**

Please include further explanatory detail as necessary to enable our assessors to make sense of the information you have provided.

### **I made a mistake when uploading my answers to the questions in the webform. What should I do?**

Please email the correct information to [raft@thefore.org](mailto:raft@thefore.org) and we will update your application record.

If you have any further queries, please contact us at [raft@thefore.org](mailto:raft@thefore.org)