



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY

JLC is proud to be one of the original signatories of IVAR's *Open and Trusted Grantmaking* initiative. This, combined with our own ethos of 'Champion-Support-Provide', brings together several pledges which we make to you, as an applicant and/or a grantee:

Our commitments

- **We will not waste your time.** We provide eligibility criteria on our website and a *checker* as you commence an application. For most grants we run a two-stage application process to ensure that you do not waste unnecessary time completing a full application if we do not think your proposal is in the strong place it needs to be for consideration by the Charity's Trustee.
- We will only ask **relevant questions that are proportionate**. All the questions included on our application form are asked because they either inform the decision-making process of the Trustee or support our own research and understanding of the sector. Our application and reporting forms reflect the fund/size of grant you are applying for.
- **We accept a degree of risk** and will discuss potential risks with you prior to a funding decision to ensure that our Trustee makes an informed decision. We accept that projects rarely run completely incident-free and will support you wherever possible to overcome challenges.
- We endeavour to **make decisions as quickly as possible**. We have three main funding rounds each year, which inevitably means some organisations are left waiting longer than they might like but we will acknowledge all applications in a timely manner. We provide clear information regarding timelines on our website and are open to discussing time sensitive applications with individual applicants. For our SHAF grants, which are particularly time sensitive, we work to have decisions in place at least three weeks before the start of the holiday period.
- We will be **open, honest and communicative** with you. We commit to meeting every applicant prior to a Stage 2 application and we will endeavour to provide feedback on declined proposals. We will remain available during the period of your grant to respond to your needs; whenever possible we like to visit your organisation during the period of the grant to see delivery in action and further understand your work.
- We will be **flexible**. Where appropriate, we provide core funding and funding for salaries, not just direct delivery costs. Within our own parameters, we are open to the prospect of some of our grants evolving as a project develops.
- **We do not place unnecessary burdens** on you. We endeavour to keep the grants process as straightforward as possible. We will ensure that our grants are supportive of your work and do not introduce unrealistic targets. We are just as happy to fund tried and tested solutions as well as new and innovative projects.
- When opportunities arise (and with your permission) **we will champion your work** with other stakeholders, funders, peers and the general public. We regularly use our social media to highlight the fantastic work taking place within our Beneficial Area and when possible, we feature our grantees in traditional media.

What we ask of you:

That you are **transparent** with us. At all stages of a grant we find open, honest conversations are the most effective in ensuring success for you. We know that being transparent with a funder can feel difficult and uncomfortable, especially when you feel that things are not working as you anticipated, but in our experience it allows us to support you in the way that is best for you. In addition, learning



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from one grantee can often be shared with another who might be in a similar situation. Transparency from our grantees often helps us to build a strong picture of the real situation in the sector.

That you are **communicative**. Alongside our standard reporting requirements, if things change with a grant (staffing, timings etc) then please let us know. It makes it much easier for us to manage the expectations on a grant if we are up to date with what is happening. We love to attend sessions, workshops and celebrations when our diaries allow so please also invite us along to things when you can.

That you **strive for excellence**. Our Trustee would have chosen to fund you because they believe in your work and want young people to have the opportunities you provide. We know how transformative experiences can be for young people and we want them to be as impactful as possible. This can only be achieved if we all continually strive for excellence.