



Volunteering Wales Main Grants

2025/28 grant application guidance

This guide is designed to help applicants understand more about the Volunteering Wales Main Grants including the aims and priorities of the grant, who can apply for funding, and what is required from applicants.

Specific guidance relating to the individual application questions will be included within the MAP application form.

Closing date: 17 January 2025

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| INTRODUCING THE VOLUNTEERING WALES MAIN GRANT | 3 |
| GRANT AIMS..... | 4 |
| GRANT PRIORITIES..... | 4 |
| IS YOUR ORGANISATION ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?..... | 5 |
| FUNDING | 6 |
| APPLICATION PROCESS..... | 6 |
| WHAT ARE THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR PROJECTS?..... | 7 |
| WHAT DOES A HIGH QUALITY VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE LOOK LIKE? | 8 |
| WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SUPPLY? | 9 |
| REGISTERING WITH MAP..... | 10 |
| PAYMENT OF GRANTS..... | 10 |
| IMPORTANT DATES..... | 11 |
| HELPFUL RESOURCES | 11 |

INTRODUCING THE VOLUNTEERING WALES MAIN GRANT

Volunteering Wales is about ‘...the kind of country we want to be’.

A volunteer is someone who commits time and energy for the benefit of society and the community, and volunteering can take many forms. It is undertaken freely and by choice without concern for financial gain. The Welsh Government’s Volunteering Policy aims to; (i) improve access to volunteering for people of all ages and from all parts of society; (ii) encourage the more effective involvement of volunteers, including through appropriate training; and, (iii) raise the status and improve the image of volunteering ([Welsh Government Volunteering Policy: Supporting Communities, Changing Lives, 2015](#)).

Delivering prosperity for all is the mission of the Welsh Government. Its long-term aim is to build a Wales that is prosperous and secure, healthy and active, ambitious and learning, and united and connected. The Welsh Government has committed to create **opportunities for more people to volunteer** and recognises that the strongest communities have people who want to step forward to get things done. These are individuals who often seek no reward, other than seeing their community prosper.

The [Well-being of Future Generations Act](#) aims to improve the way that Wales achieves economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. Through funding organisations to support and train individuals to contribute through quality volunteering opportunities, Volunteering Wales Grant scheme will contribute to all seven goals. Volunteering has an immediate and long-term positive impact on the individual and community. Nationally volunteers are vital for the delivery of third sector groups’ missions and values.

Volunteering Wales Main Grant is a scheme funded by the Welsh Government to promote and improve volunteering in Wales. The scheme is administered by WCVA (Wales Council for Voluntary Action).

GRANT AIMS

The aims of the scheme are:

- Increase volunteer engagement and satisfaction by removing barriers to volunteering for people of all ages and from all parts of society.
- Support the creation and development of high quality and positive volunteering opportunities in Wales.
- Promote changes in beneficiary organisations to embed volunteering into their culture eg obtaining [the Investing in Volunteers Award](#).

GRANT PRIORITIES

Demonstrate the contribution that volunteers and volunteering make to the seven [Well-being of Future Generations Act \(2015\)](#) goals and to enable organisations to make progress towards the Welsh Government [‘Ways of Working’](#).

1. A Prosperous Wales
2. A Resilient Wales
3. A More Equal Wales
4. A Healthier Wales
5. A Wales of Cohesive Communities
6. A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
7. A Globally Responsible Wales

In line with our commitment to ‘A More Equal Wales’, we particularly welcome applications from organisation run by or for the benefit of people with protected characteristics.

IS YOUR ORGANISATION ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Your organisation can apply if:

- it is a not-for-profit organisation and is independent of government and private sectors
- its proposed project / activity will be taking place in Wales (employment outside Wales is not supported under this grant scheme)
- It is an organisation that currently involves volunteers to benefit the community, supported by a volunteering policy OR is an organisation that has developed a volunteering policy and believes involving volunteers will benefit the community
- the proposed project recruits new volunteers and can use a system to monitor and track volunteer involvement and progress (the [Volunteering Wales](#) platform can help)
- it is willing and able to take part in an independent evaluation of the impact of the grants
- **Has a fit for purpose Safeguarding policy** – an application submitted with major improvements required to their safeguarding policy will not be referred to panel.
(<https://thirdsectorsupport.wales/resources/safeguarding-policy-guidance/>)

Your organisation **cannot** apply if you are:

- A political organisation
- A statutory organisation
- A County Voluntary Council (CVC) or Volunteer Centre
- A private organisation

Please note that only **one** application can be made by the same organisation in any grant round. We particularly welcome applications from organisations led by or working for the benefit of people with protected characteristics. If the grant round is competitive priority will be given to these applications. Applications will be required to demonstrate meaningful and tangible impact on the communities of benefit selected in the application.

FUNDING

Organisations can apply for awards of up to 2 years with a maximum request of £30,000 per year.

The year 2 award is provisional until a review of the project performance is undertaken in month 10. The success of this review, undertaken by the WCVA grants team and the VWG Project Board, will determine if the year two award is confirmed and payment will be released.

This fund is primarily focused on revenue funding; however, your funding request can contain costs for purchases of smaller 'capital' equipment including consumables (for example PPE, IT equipment etc).

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is split into two stages for applicants.

Stage 1: application

The first part of the application will be where you provide details of your organisation, including policies, recent accounts and contact details.

The rest of the application is where the project will be described in detail. You will also be required to demonstrate how the project will work towards at least three Well-being of Future Generations goals.

Once the application is submitted the Grants team will assess the answers against the scoring criteria. At this stage there will be no opportunity to amend the answers provided and no feedback will be given until after the award letters have been issued. You may be contacted to provide supporting information/documents if these are missing. The applications will only be scored based on each question and the individual question guidance.

A sample of the applications will be quality checked prior to final recommendations made to the Volunteering Wales Board.

Stage 2: Volunteering Wales board*

All applications that pass the minimum score questions will be referred to the Volunteering Wales Board. The Board will decide which applications to fund.

They may also make recommendations of partial funding where appropriate / according to the funding available.

Once the Chair has signed off the final decision, outcome letters will be sent to all applicants.

*The **Volunteering Wales Board** provide strategic direction and overview to the grant scheme, support the appraisal and awarding of grants and review the performance of projects. The Board is comprised of members of WCVA's Board and members drawn from the Welsh volunteering community.

WHAT ARE THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR PROJECTS?

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria: -

- a. A clear and appropriate project description
- b. Demonstration of need
- c. Quality of volunteering experience
- d. How the project has been developed in a collaborative and integrated way to enable the objectives to be sustainable
- e. Impact of the project
- f. Project targets and budget

WHAT DOES A HIGH QUALITY VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE LOOK LIKE?

We recommend that you utilise the Investing in Volunteers Standards as a framework to guide the development or enhancement of your volunteering project.

These standards suggest that organisations would improve their organisational approach to volunteering if they focused on these areas

Volunteering being embedded within the overall vision, values, culture and aims of the organisation and its impact recognised and communicated. That your organisation understands why it involves volunteers.

People, policies and procedures in place to ensure volunteering is well managed

Organisations and projects have a positive approach to inclusion, equity and diversity and a proactive approach to making volunteering accessible

People find it easy to find out about the volunteering opportunities, to explore if they are the right fit for them and find it easy to get involved

Volunteers feel supported at all times, feel they are part of the organisation and that their contribution makes a difference.

Volunteers are valued and there are opportunities for volunteers to grow and develop through their experience.

The standards can be downloaded from

<https://investinginvolunteers.co.uk/download-the-standard/>

Organisations could include the cost of going through the award as one of their grant costs.

An Investing in Volunteers Information Session is being held on 3rd December 2024. Please email volwalesgrants@wcva.cymru to book.

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SUPPLY?

The application will require you to submit documents online in the form of a scanned PDF.

You will be required to submit organisation specific documents however if your organisation does not currently have finalised versions of any of the policies you can contact your local CVC for support ([directory found here](#)). It may not make your application ineligible; however, we would expect to see policies in development prior to award:

- Volunteering Policy (see an example of a [Model Volunteering Policy](#))
- Governing document
- Equal opportunities policy
- Environmental policy
- Welsh language policy
- Data protection policy (which demonstrates GDPR compliance) - see guidance: <https://thirdsectorsupport.wales/resources/data-protection-gdpr/>
- Safeguarding policy (Safeguarding policies must be fit for purpose. If on review updates/amendments need to be made you will be notified. **No application will be recommended to panel with an insufficient Safeguarding policy**) see guidance: <https://knowledgehub.cymru/help-and-guidance/safeguarding/safeguarding-essentials/>
- Latest set of full audited accounts
- Latest set of draft accounts (if audited accounts are older than 12 months old OR Management accounts (if audited accounts are older than 12 months old)
- Forecast accounts (for new organisations yet to post accounts) You will also be required to submit project specific documents:
- A volunteer Induction/training plan
- Volunteer role descriptions
- A project profile (including targets and budget) (this will need to be completed on the mandatory WCVA template)

REGISTERING WITH MAP

In order to apply to the Volunteering Wales Main Grant, you will need to register with WCVA's Multipurpose Application Portal (MAP). If you have previously registered with MAP, you can log in by entering your username and password on the home screen.

Organisations can register by visiting the website: map.wcva.cymru

Once you have registered with MAP you will be able to apply for any funding opportunities administered by WCVA.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments will be split between into year one and year two as follows:

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| Year one | 90% upfront once any conditions of award are met | 10% following successful submission of the end of year one report |
| Year two | 90% upfront once any conditions of award are met | 10% following successful submission of the end of project report |

The payments will be made to the organisation's bank account. No grant payments will be made to an individual's bank account.

If, following interim reports, the project is deemed to be significantly underachieving against the targets, payments can be withheld until actions have been taken to mitigate the impact on the overall project's achievement. In exceptional circumstances grant awards can be withdrawn and projects ended early.

Interim reports will be submitted after 6 months and at completion of the project, however additional monitoring can be scheduled if the organisation is struggling to meet the requirements of the award. More information on the information / evidence needed during these visits will be provided in a Project Management Guide upon grant award.

IMPORTANT DATES

Launch date: 28 October 2024

Deadline for applications: 17 January 2025

Outcome of grant application: March 2025

Earliest project start date: 1 April 2025

HELPFUL RESOURCES

If you are not currently a member of your local County Voluntary Council (CVC), the list of each CVC can be found [here](#).

- [Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 – WCVA information page](#)
- [Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 – Commissioner page](#)
- [Volunteering Policy: Supporting Communities, Changing Lives](#) (Welsh Government, 2015)
- [Prosperity for all – the national strategy](#) (Welsh Government, 2017)
- [Working with volunteers resources and information](#)