

These guidelines are for the purpose of assisting those making a grant or loan application to The William Leech Charity or those seeking grants from The Lady Leech Fund.

The William Leech Charity

The William Leech Charity is an independent grant and loan making Trust based in North East England. Set up by Sir William Leech in 1972, the trust supports North East based volunteers and charitable projects that positively impact communities across Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

The Trust is administered by a board of Trustees who ensure funding makes an impact on the people who need it most.

grants

Purpose: Grants are awarded to support innovative and effective charitable activities that benefit the North East of England. The Trustees favour projects where the grant will have a significant and measurable impact.

Grant Amount: The value of grants varies depending on the project and available funding.

Application Process: Applications must be submitted online via williamleechcharity.org.uk. Required information includes:

- a detailed project description
- financial overview
- specific type of support requested (small grant, multiple grants, etc.).

Conditions: Organisations that have received funding within the previous 12 months will normally not be eligible to apply again unless agreed in advance by the Trustees. Grants will not be made to individuals, for gap years, personal travel, or other non-charitable activities.

Eligibility for grants is focused on registered charities where most of the work is done by volunteers.

Eligible Applicants: Registered charities where at least two-thirds of the work is done by volunteers, excluding administration and fundraising.

Project Focus: Projects that rely heavily on volunteer support and have limited paid staff.

Exclusions: Organisations with substantial paid staff or those that have received recent funding from the charity may not be eligible. Please note, we do not support core costs.

Please note we only accept applications for grants from Registered Charities.

loans

Purpose: Interest-free loans are typically provided to organisations (often, but not exclusively churches) who are facing unexpected financial crises, often related to building projects or other capital needs.

Loan Amount: Up to £10,000 or 10% of the project cost, whichever is lower.

Repayment Terms: Loans are usually repayable over five years in annual instalments. Early repayment is encouraged to allow the charity to support other applicants.

Application Process: Applicants must submit a detailed project description, including financial needs and repayment plans. The charity requires a copy of the minutes from an extraordinary meeting of the relevant body, clearly outlining the loan amount, repayment schedule, and the intended use of funds.

Conditions: The loan offer remains valid for two months from the date of approval. If not utilised within this period, a new application must be submitted.

The Lady Leech fund

Early in 1997 the Lady Leech Fund was created within The William Leech Charity with a donation of a portfolio of shares from Lady Ellen Leech. On her death in May 1999 Lady Ellen had directed that the residue from her estate was to be donated to this fund.

It was Lady Ellen's wishes that the income of the Lady Leech Fund should be applied to supporting projects which help children, especially in the Developing World and other poor countries. Wherever possible these projects should have a personal connection with our area, (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and County Durham). Ideally someone connected with our area but working with an overseas project.

Purpose: Support projects focused on improving the welfare of disadvantaged children, especially in developing countries, in line with Lady Ellen Leech's wishes.

Grant Amount: Based on project needs and potential impact.

Application Process: Similar to the William Leech Charity, applications must be submitted online. Required details include the project's purpose, its connection to the North East, and how it will benefit disadvantaged children.

Conditions: Grants are typically not awarded to individuals or for personal travel. Preference is given to projects with a direct North East connection.

Eligibility for grants is focused on registered charities where most of the work is done by volunteers.

Eligible Applicants: Registered charities where at least two-thirds of the work is done by volunteers, excluding administration and fundraising.

Project Focus: Projects that rely heavily on volunteer support and have limited paid staff.

Exclusions: Organisations with substantial paid staff or those that have received recent funding from the charity may not be eligible.