

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: Varies based on the project's scope and needs. Large and multiple grants may be considered, especially for projects demonstrating substantial need and potential community impact.

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: Grants are typically not awarded to organisations that have received funding within the last 12 months, unless prior arrangements have been made. Additionally, grants will not be made to individuals, for gap years, personal travel, or other non-charitable activities.

Please note we only accept applications for grants from Registered Charities and community interest companies.

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 lesser.

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 years 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 the Third World, 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.

volunteer support

This is an additional grants programme designed to assist volunteers in small, registered charities where at least two thirds of the charitable work (excluding administration and fundraising) is done by volunteers. Likely grants will be in the region of £500 to £5000.

Purpose: To assist small registered charities where at least two-thirds of the charitable work is done by volunteers, excluding administration and fundraising.

Grant Amount: Typically between £500 to £5,000.

Application Process: Applicants must provide details about the charity's activities, including the number of volunteers, project aims, and financial needs. Applications are submitted online.

Conditions: Preference is given to charities with limited paid staff, ensuring that the majority of funds are used directly for charitable work.