

OUR SPACE (MORE THAN A ROOF) GRANT PROGRAMME APPLICATION GUIDANCE



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking the time to read this guidance for the Our Space Grant Programme. We hope you will find this information useful and that your questions and queries are answered. If not, please do get in touch with us on grants@centrepoin.org and we will be more than happy to assist.

BACKGROUND

Vulnerable young people arrive at supported accommodation following a period of rough sleeping, a breakdown of family relationships, and other difficult or traumatic experiences. For many, the accommodation they move into represents their first experience of safety and stability.

While having their own room is important, the shared spaces within accommodation, such as lounges, kitchens, and communal areas, often play a crucial role in helping young people settle in, connect with others, and feel part of a community. Environments that feel warm, comfortable, and welcoming can help young people relax, build relationships, and feel valued in the place they live.

The Our Space Grant Programme will enable Centrepoin's partner charities to access funding to improve and personalise communal areas, making them more homely and reflective of the young people who live there. This approach places young people at the centre of decision-making, encouraging them to collaborate, share ideas, and agree on how to enhance the spaces they use together. By supporting young people to shape their surroundings, we can help create spaces that promote comfort, belonging, and wellbeing.

AIM

The More Than A Roof Programme consists of three grant streams, Personalisation Grants, Move On Grants and Our Space Grant.

The Our Space Grant is focused on making communal areas feel more homely by encouraging the use of familiar, comforting elements such as warm colours, gentle lighting, and meaningful decorations.

These spaces should invite connection and conversation, helping young people feel at ease and fostering a sense of community that supports positive wellbeing.

The programme is for services who manage accommodation and encourages young people to make decisions together about how to improve communal spaces, strengthening a sense of ownership, inclusion, and connection with others where they live.

OUTCOMES

Please ensure your proposal meets the following outcomes:

- Young people feel positive about living in their room
- Young people feel that living in the room benefits their well-being, in terms of feeling happy in an organisation's accommodation
- There is an increase in the organisations resources to transform the rooms of young people

WHO CAN APPLY

All applicants need to be a member of Centrepoin Partnering Scheme, registered with Charities Trust, and meet one of the following criteria:

- Constituted group - e.g. the organisation has a constitution document that governs it but may not have charitable or company status
- Not-for-profit company or Community Interest Company
- A registered charity

In addition:

- Applicants must also have a bank account in the name of their organisation and at least 2 years of annual accounts audited or signed by financial officer or treasurer.

WHO CANNOT APPLY

We cannot accept applications from the following:

- organisations that do not directly provide accommodation to homeless young people
- organisations who provide accommodation for under 3 months to homeless young people (see FAQ's for further explanation)
- individuals
- sole traders

- Organisations whose registered office, principal place of business, or primary operations are located **outside the United Kingdom** are **not eligible to apply**.
- an organisation applying on behalf of another organisation.

If you have any questions around your organisation or group's eligibility based on the above, please get in contact with us at grants@centrepoin.org.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

We can fund

This grant is for the provision of items for communal and shared areas (e.g. lounges, kitchens, dining areas, or gardens) in accommodation for young people aged between 16 and 25 years old who are supported by a Centrepoin Partner organisation.

The items that can be purchased are:

- Soft furnishings - e.g. curtains, cushions, rugs, bedding, bean bags
- Electrical goods - e.g. Lamps, lights, toasters, kettles
- Decoration - etc. pictures, plants, clocks, ornaments, mirrors, paint
- Entertainment and social items – e.g. televisions, consoles and games, or audio/visual equipment to create relaxing shared spaces for group activities or movie nights
- Small wellbeing or activity equipment – e.g. yoga mats, small weights, or compact exercise equipment where suitable space allows
- Outdoor furniture, gardening items/tools
- White goods such as fridges,
- Flooring such as laminated tiles and fitted carpet

This list is not exhaustive but please check with us if you are unsure.

We cannot fund

- Salaries of staff or organisational running costs
- VAT you can reclaim
- Cash that will be given directly to individuals
- Procurement of infrastructure, premises or rent
- Payments reimbursed or to be reimbursed by other public or private sector grants

GRANT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

The period for which you must spend the grant funding is from signature of grant agreement between the organisation and Centrepoin **until 28 February 2026**.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application form is available [here](#)

- Applications should be submitted via the online form and the required attachments emailed to grants@centrepoin.org, by **5pm, 2 December 2025**.
- Organisations will be expected to spend their funding by 28 February 2026

SELECTION CRITERIA AND DECISION MAKING

All applicants will undergo due diligence checks by Centrepoin to assess if they have the basic financial and organisational policies and processes in place. These include areas such as; safeguarding, information security and fraud prevention and adequate financial management processes.

We have a simple application form that applicants will be asked to complete. This includes organisational details and asking applicants to identify the number of young people they will support and the number of rooms refurbished. Applicants are also required to include a calculation for turnover of young people within the grant period so that they can provide new residents with soft furnishings of their own.

Centrepoin wants to ensure that the following criteria is met:

- To enable as many organisations within the Partnership (who have accommodation) to benefit from funding
- To ensure a balance between small and larger organisations receiving funding
- To ensure that the distribution of funding is balanced geographically
- Agreement from the organisation to report against the fund's outcomes at the end of the grant period

These criteria could mean some applicants do not receive funding or only a proportion of the funding they applied for in this round but could apply for subsequent rounds. We anticipate that the average value of the grant will be between £5,000 and £10,000.00.

MONITORING, REPORTING AND LEARNING

Successful applicants will be expected to provide a project and financial report at the end of the project.

The report will ask organisations to provide a short summary of how they felt the funding contributed to the outcomes of the More Than a Roof - Grant Programme and report on the expenditure of the grant funding.

Organisations will also be asked to:

- Undertake a short questionnaire with the young people regarding whether they felt the grant met the stated aim and outcomes of the fund
- Submit anonymised demographics data on the young people benefiting from the funding
- Submit copies of all receipts relating to grant expenditure

At the end of the report, organisations will be able to share lessons learned or insights which will help Centrepont to shape future funding rounds.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q - Will this be the only opportunity to apply for funding?

A - No. The funder has indicated the intention to fund for 3 years if there has been satisfactory progress made, the grant programme meets its outcomes, and they are happy with the overall progress that Centrepont has made on the other programmes funded by the funder. By taking a cautious approach we hope to achieve the outputs for the first year whilst at the same time making it as simple and straightforward for partner organisations to receive funding.

Q - Will this be the only opportunity to apply for Our Space Grant Programme?

A - Please be aware that this fund was undersubscribed in the previous round. While it is available for the current cycle, future availability cannot be guaranteed.

Q - Why does the grant not fund short term and emergency accommodation i.e. under 3 months?

A - During our consultations with partners and colleagues in Centrepont we concluded that in practice it would be difficult for these organisations to fulfill the requirement to purchase items, settle young people in and gain feedback from them in such a short time frame. Grant making is also a new thing for Centrepont so for the first round of funding we want to take a cautious approach, learning and further consulting on how future rounds of funding can accommodate young people in short term accommodation, e.g. move on grants.

Q - We would like to apply for multiple sites, is this allowed?

A - Yes, organisations are able to apply for multiple sites. If applying for multiple sites, your organisation should still only submit one application form and request the funding required to cover all of the sites they are applying for.

Q - We are a large organisation and if we apply for all the funding we need, will our application be rejected because of cost?

A - One of our criteria is to ensure that there is a balance between large and small organisations receiving funding. However all applicants should ask for what funding they need. Centrepont may come back to an organisation to ask them to reduce the total amount they requested but they will not

be rejected just because they requested the full amount.

Q - We provide emergency accommodation (hostels) but also deliver the service for older looked after care leavers on behalf of our county council. These are longer term stays (1-2 years), and total 29 young people at any one time. Would we be eligible to apply for these young people?

A - Yes, you would be eligible to apply for those young people 16yrs – 25yrs and not in emergency accommodation

Q - We have young people in supported lodgings would we be eligible to apply?

A - We are prioritising organisations who provide supported accommodation (i.e accommodation that is owned or managed by the Partnering member) as this is where we feel the greatest impact can be achieved. However, other accommodation projects (e.g. supported lodgings) that accommodate young people for periods of 3 months or longer, are welcome to apply. We will make decisions on all other accommodation projects once the supported accommodation applications have been assessed.

Q - We are not VAT registered; can we use the grant funds to cover the VAT component of the items purchased under the More Than a Roof Programme?

A - If your organisation is not VAT registered, VAT costs incurred in the purchase of eligible items will also be considered eligible expenditure. If you are VAT registered and will reclaim the VAT from HMRC, you may only claim the net amount (excluding VAT) as eligible expenditure.

Q - We are not registered with Charities Trust. Where do we go to register?

A - It is a requirement of the funder that organisations that receive funding under the More Than a Roof Programme are registered with Charities Trust. If you are not currently registered with Charities Trust, you can register via this [online form](#) for free. Once Charities Trust has reviewed your submission, they will email you to confirm if your organisation has been added.