

Applying to the Accessibility Fund: Expression of Interest stage

For the third round of Accessibility Fund applications we have introduced an additional stage in the process, the Expression of Interest. Potential applicants should complete the Expression of Interest form. We'll use the content of the Expression of Interest forms to decide which applicants will be invited to make a full application.

Why is Barnwood Trust doing this?

We were oversubscribed with applications in the first round and then even more oversubscribed in the second round, receiving over thirty applications, of which we were only to fund five. Unfortunately this meant that the majority of applicants expended time and resources on completing the form only for their application to be unsuccessful. Introducing an Expression of Interest stage should help us to decide which applications are most likely to be funded. If your application is unlikely to be successful, then we can at least save you the time and expense of completing the form.

What does the Expression of Interest form cover?

For Round 3 all applicants will complete the Expression of Interest form. This includes some basic information about you and your project which is helpful for us in monitoring our 'reach' – we need to know if some of Gloucestershire's communities are under-represented among the people who apply for our funding. The form also includes some questions about your project. Your answers will help us to decide which applications look best placed to help us deliver our strategic outcomes.

The questions are:

1. Please give a brief overview of your project (not scored).

Your answer will help us to judge whether your application is appropriate for the Accessibility Fund.

**2. How will your project help to deliver the aim of the Accessibility Fund?
(score 0-5)**

The aim of the Accessibility Fund is to help to ensure that disabled people and people with mental health conditions have access to a range of accessible and welcoming spaces, indoor and outdoor, in communities across Gloucestershire. All applications should include at least an element of improving the physical access of the space but they can also include other elements of making the space welcoming: providing training for people working at the space, so they have the skills and confidence to meet disabled visitors' needs; making communications or a website more accessible; and ensuring that disabled people using the space know what to expect before they visit.

3. How have you decided what to do to make your space more accessible and welcoming? (score 0-5)

Why did you decide to undertake this project? For example, you might have taken on the management of a space that you want to make more accessible: or groups within your community might have told you that your space isn't accessible for them: or disabled users of the space have told you that although technically the space is physically accessible, they don't feel welcome or that they get the same quality of experience as other visitors.

4. How have disabled people and people with mental health conditions helped to shape your project? (score 0-5)

It's really important that disabled people in your community have had opportunities to help design and plan your project. You need to explain how you have ensured that disabled people have a genuine voice in your project and that it's designed in line with their needs.

How do I apply?

You can download the Expression of Interest form from our website.

Complete the questions as comprehensively as you can– this is the only information we will use in deciding whether to invite you to make a full application. You'll see

that there are word counts for each question – to be fair to all applicants, please try to keep within the word counts.

You also need to provide the following items with your application:

- Your safeguarding policy.
- A recent bank statement – dated within the last six months.

Complete the form and return it by e-mail to ged.cassell@barnwoodtrust.org by the deadline of (date).

What if I need help or advice with the form?

We recommend that you read the Accessibility Fund information pack ([link](#)) before you apply. The pack includes details of the funding programme; the kinds of projects we can support; the application process; and the timescale.

When the programme opens we will hold a series of in-person and online drop-in information sessions (details) where you can hear more about the Accessibility Fund and ask any questions you might have.

You can also e-mail Ged (see above) any time if you have specific queries.

What happens next?

When we receive your completed form we'll acknowledge it and log the details.

All Expressions of Interest we receive by the deadline (date) will be reviewed and scored by the Funding Team at Barnwood Trust. The highest scoring applicants will be invited to complete the full application.

Based on our experience in the two previous rounds, we expect to receive around thirty applications. Of these, we expect around 10-12 applicants will be invited to complete the full application.

If your application is unsuccessful, we'll let you know as soon as we can and we'll try to give you some feedback which will help you if you decide to reapply in the next round.

If your application is successful, we'll send you the full application form and details of the information we'll need you to provide in support of your application.