

Applying to the Accessibility Fund: Expression of Interest stage

For the third and fourth rounds 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?

In this funding round, all applicants are required to complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) form. The form collects some basic information about you and your project, which helps us understand who is applying for funding and monitor the reach of our funding. This information enables us to identify whether any Gloucestershire communities are underrepresented among applicants.

The form also includes questions about your project and the impact it will have. Your responses will help us assess how well your proposal aligns with our strategic outcomes and identify the applications most likely to deliver meaningful benefits for Gloucestershire communities.

The questions are:

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

This question helps us understand your project and check that it is suitable for the Accessibility Fund. We will not score this question, but we may use it to determine whether your application is eligible for the fund.

2. How will your project help to deliver the aim of the Accessibility Fund? (score 0-8)

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 disabled people and people with mental health conditions helped to shape your project? (score 0-8)

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 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 (25 September 2026) will be reviewed and scored by the Funding Team at Barnwood Trust. The highest scoring applicants will be invited to complete a full application.

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

If your application is unsuccessful, we will let you know as soon as possible. We will also aim to provide feedback to help you understand the areas in which your application could be strengthened.

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.