

Grants for Individuals - Frequently Asked Questions

1. About the Individual Grant

What is the 'Grants for Individuals' programme?

This is a grant programme for disabled people and people with mental health conditions in Gloucestershire. It is to provide access to;

- essential household items and services
- technology
- transport solutions
- enjoyment and enrichment opportunities.

How can I apply for the 'Grants for Individuals' programme?

We've changed the way we're providing individual grants, and it's no longer possible to apply directly to Barnwood Trust.

We've partnered up with specialist organisations throughout the county, who can provide support, advice and guidance for disabled people and people with mental health conditions who have indicated a need for support.

What support is available to me?

Here are a range of links, which may help you if you require any additional support:

- [Citizens Advice](#) offer free, confidential and impartial advice on a range of issues.
- The [Turn2Us Grant Search](#) can help you to find funds based on your circumstances or experience.
- [StepChange](#) can give free debt advice and help with budgeting.
- The [Lightning Application Portal](#) is a secure online portal which allows you to find and apply for support from multiple providers, quickly and easily.

Alternatively, you can visit [Barnwood Trust - Other Support Available](#) if you'd like to see other options available.

2. Changes to our Application Process

Why have we stopped accepting applications directly from individuals?

Demand for the individual grants far exceeded our budget in 2021 and 2022. In 2022, to manage the volume of applications, Barnwood Trust was only able to award opportunities grants to people with certain conditions, which was not as inclusive as we wanted to be. We wanted to find a way to ensure that all disabled people and people with mental health conditions who need support could be eligible.

Barnwood Trust now receive grant applications via a network of Community Partners. These are local charities, voluntary organisations and housing associations. By working with these organisations, we can ensure our funds are reaching those in most need of support as part of a package of help.

Who helped Barnwood Trust make this decision?

In late 2021, some members of Barnwood Circle worked with Barnwood Trust with the aim of designing an individual grant. From these co-design sessions, two funding programmes were formed:

- The 'Grants for You' programme allowed individuals to apply directly to Barnwood Trust to help access enjoyment and enrichment opportunities, technology and transport solutions.
- A referrer-only pilot programme was also created called 'Grants for Your Home', which allowed several local charities and voluntary organisations to submit applications on behalf of people who needed access to essential household items.

When we reviewed the volumes of applications being awarded under the 'Grants for You' and 'Grants for Your Home' programmes, we found that working with local charities and voluntary organisations was more inclusive.

It meant we no longer needed to do strict eligibility checks, and many applicants accessed other sources of funding and support this way. This made us look again at how we made our grants and think about which approach would be the most beneficial for our applicants.

How is this application process better than applying directly to Barnwood Trust?

Throughout the years, the demand for more individual or tailored support has grown and we know that everyone's needs and circumstances are different. By working with Community Partners, you'll have someone who can support you and be able to explore a variety of options with you – whether these are based in Gloucestershire or available nationally.

It also allows the Community Partner to act as a liaison, who can support you with submitting an online application on your behalf; as well as help arrange the purchasing of the item/service or helping you to do so.

We trust our Community Partners to have open and honest conversations with everyone they're supporting. This means by the time our Individual Grants Team begin to review your application, we'll already know other available options have already been explored and the Community Partner has established you meet our eligibility criteria. This also means you no longer need to provide us with any further evidence or supporting documents as part of the application process.

3. Community Partners

Who are the Community Partners working with Barnwood Trust?

We are not able to share the list of Community Partners publicly. This is to ensure the Community Partners can continue providing quality, whole-person support across Gloucestershire without their involvement with Barnwood Trust affecting the level of demand for their services.

Community Partners will explore all options available to ensure there isn't a more suitable grant offered in the county based on your needs and circumstances.

How will the Community Partners know how to support applicants?

Our Community Partners have received training on the 'Grants for Individuals' application process. We have conducted due diligence checks on each Community Partner organisation, and we are confident they can provide the necessary support to the people they need to help.

How have the Community Partners been chosen?

Between May 2022 and June 2023, Barnwood Trust piloted a referrer-only model for one of their individual funding programmes known as 'Grants for Your Home'.

The majority of our Community Partners have come from this scheme. Our Community Partners have recently been reviewed, to make sure there's organisations that are able to take submit applications across the whole of Gloucestershire.

I work for a local charity, voluntary organisation or housing association within Gloucestershire. How do we register to become a Community Partner?

If you'd like to express an interest in becoming one of our Community Partners, please email grants@barnwoodtrust.org to let us know and we'll be in touch. We regularly review our Community Partners to ensure there's organisations capable of submitting applications across each district in Gloucestershire. Please note that there is no guarantee that we will be able to add you to our list; whether we consider your organisation will depend on the need you are addressing, and whether this is already covered by another partner.

If you have any other questions please email grants@barnwoodtrust.org and our Individual Grants Team will be in touch to help answer any other questions or queries you may have.