

# 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.

We work in partnership with these organisations to understand people's needs across Gloucestershire - and to capture, share and advocate best practice in this work.

### 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 individual funding 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.

Our Community Partners can apply for funding on behalf of eligible individuals from their existing client base, if they've established Barnwood Trust is the most suitable option for them based on their needs and circumstances. 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.

### **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.

With this in mind, our Community Partners are not expected to 'market' our individual funding, and Barnwood Trust will not signpost an individual directly to our Community Partner organisations for the sole purpose of applying for funding.

Community Partners take a person-centered approach in discussing their clients' circumstances, exploring all options available to ensure there isn't a more suitable opportunity they're also eligible for.

Our Community Partners can apply for funding on behalf of eligible individuals from their existing client base, if they've established Barnwood Trust is the most suitable option for them based on their 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 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 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](mailto: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 or queries, please call 01242 539935 or email [grants@barnwoodtrust.org](mailto:grants@barnwoodtrust.org) where a member of the Individual Grants Team can help.**