Funding Guidelines

Please read the information below before applying.

The CLA Charitable Trust seeks to support the most disadvantaged, and especially disadvantaged young people, to access the benefits of the countryside.

Our charitable objects are:

- Advancing people's physical and mental health and wellbeing through financial support of charities, not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises, which are delivering access, recreational and educational opportunities within and about the countryside.

- To promote and encourage education in sustainable farming, food production and rural land management.

We support a wide range of organisations providing activities engaging young people and communities in these areas.

This include but are not limited to:

- Farms providing day or residential experiences for disabled or disadvantaged young people.
- Growing projects including horticultural therapy and community projects supporting people through outdoor activities and gardening.
- Forest school type activities giving people the opportunity to utilise their outdoor spaces for the benefit of their mental and physical wellbeing.
- Conservation and environmental projects giving people the chance to learn about the natural environment and how to care for it.

Organisations and activities must be in England and / or Wales only.

Priority Area
We will identify different priority themes within the above grant-making criteria and these will be publicised once finalised for each year.

Grant size
The maximum grant is £10,000. Grant applications for amounts larger than this will not be considered.

Organisation type
We fund registered charities or community interest companies. We will fund other organisations but they must be clearly constituted, run on a not-for-profit basis and have a clear social benefit. This includes schools exclusively for children with additional needs.

We prioritise smaller organisations with a turnover of less than £1.5million. Larger organisations may still apply but are less likely to be successful. Organisations should have a clear reserves policy and organisations with significant unrestricted reserves will not be funded.

Organisations must have been established for at least three years.

Organisations must have at least three trustees / directors – who are not related to each other. (An organisation may have some related trustees / directors but at least three must be unrelated.)

Previous Applicants
If your organisation has made a previous full grant application you must wait three years before reapplying. This applies to both successful and unsuccessful applicants. This does not apply to submitting an expression of interest – organisations can make one expression of interest per grant round.

Religious Organisations and Activities
We will consider applications from faith-based organisations if activities are inclusive and welcome people of all faiths and none. We cannot fund activities that promote a specific religion or involve only a single religious group.

What we do not fund
We do not fund:

- Uniformed groups such as Guides, Scouts, Cadets etc;
- Animal parks, zoos, wildlife parks, tourist attractions;
- Arts organisations, projects and activities;
- Housing associations;
- Mainstream school, nurseries / early years providers, including PTAs and similar funds;
- Grants for individuals;
- Sports, including water sports;
- Outdoor adventure / outward bound type activities;
- Equestrian activities.

Application process and Timescale

We have a two-stage application process. First organisations are asked to complete a brief expression of interest form. If successful at the expression of interest stage, the Trust Administrator will contact you with information about how to make a full application and the supporting documents needed.

We will have two grant-making rounds in 2027:

	Expression of Interest	*Application Deadline*	*Grants Paid*
Round One	December / January	February	March / April
Round Two	June / July	August	October / November

Exact timescales and deadlines will be shared on our website when available.

We will request a full end of grant report within 12 months with an informal check-in at around 6 months.

Like many other grant-makers we are always over-subscribed with applications. The March 2026 grant round funded around 10% of applications received.

If you have any questions please contact Nina Davies, Trust Administrator:

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