

## 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

Our priority area for the October 2026 grant making round is sustainable farming. We welcome applications from charitable organisations that fall within one or both of our general criteria and also practise sustainable farming.

That might be through a focus on soil management (e.g. livestock integration, companion cropping or minimum tillage) for improved soil health and carbon sequestration; or creating habitat banks and nature corridors for increased biodiversity; or other nature-friendly farming and land management methods.

We continue to welcome applications from across England and Wales. However, there are some locations under-represented in our grant-making to date this year: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire and all of Wales.

### 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.

### **Previous Applicants**

If your organisation has made a previous application you must wait three years before reapplying. This applies to both successful and unsuccessful applicants.

### **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 schools, including PTAs and similar funds;
- Grants for individuals;
- Sports, including water sports;
- Outdoor adventure / outward bound type activities;
- Equestrian activities.

### **Application process**

Complete the expression of interest form to tell us more about your organisation:

[CLA Charitable Trust - Expression of Interest July 2026 – Fill out form](#)

The form will be open from Tuesday 7th to Monday 27th July. After this our next grant making round will open in early 2027.

If successful at the expression of interest stage, the Trust Administrator will contact you with information about how to make a full application. The full application deadline will be Monday 24th August.

### **Timescale**

- We expect to let successful and unsuccessful candidates know the outcome of their full application by the end of October at the latest.
- Grant payments will be made in November.
- 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 on [CharitableTrust@cla.org.uk](mailto:CharitableTrust@cla.org.uk) or 07557 752840.

We will be holding an online Q&A session on Tuesday 14th July 10.30am – 11.30am. If you would like to join please contact Nina, on the details above, for further information.